First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn

Its History 1926–1995

Written by
John Craddock

John Craddock was born and educated in Scotland, and came to America with his parents and sister in 1921. The family settled in Duluth, Minnesota, where in 1927 John married Bernice Campbell, a union which lasted for 65 years and 1 month.

In 1941 John and his family moved to Glen Ellyn. They joined First Presbyterian Church in 1942. Much of his time since then has been dedicated to the church, especially after his retirement from business in 1969. He taught a boys' Sunday School class for a year, served as Sunday School Superintendent for two years, as a Deacon for three years, as Ruling Elder for twenty-four years, and as Administrator for twelve years. At this time he and Ruth Morgenstern are joint Historians.

This is his second effort at writing. In 1993 he published an autobiography titled *A Tale of Two Lives* which may be found in the Church Library.

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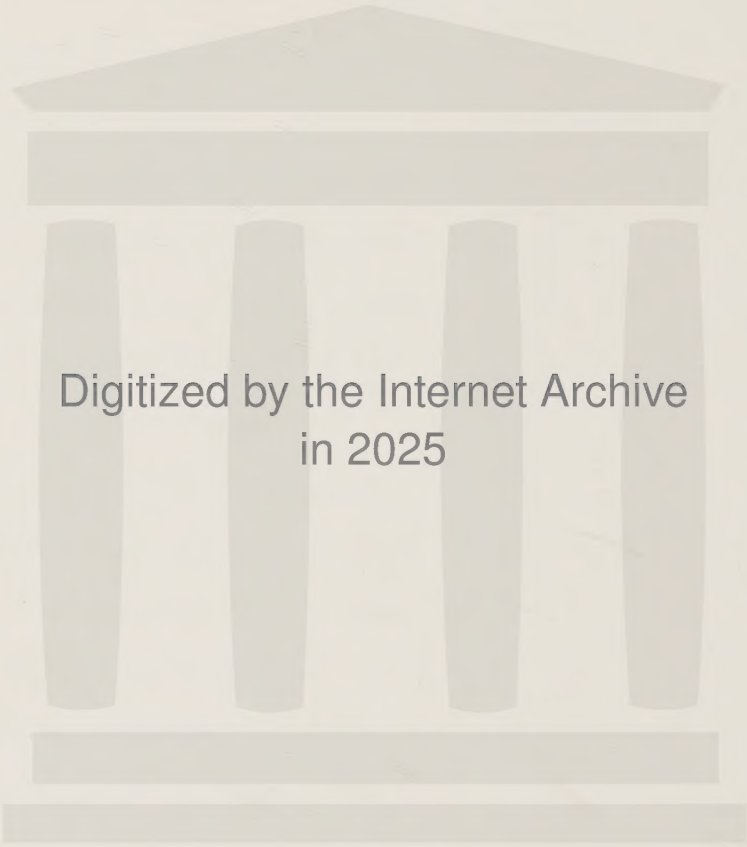
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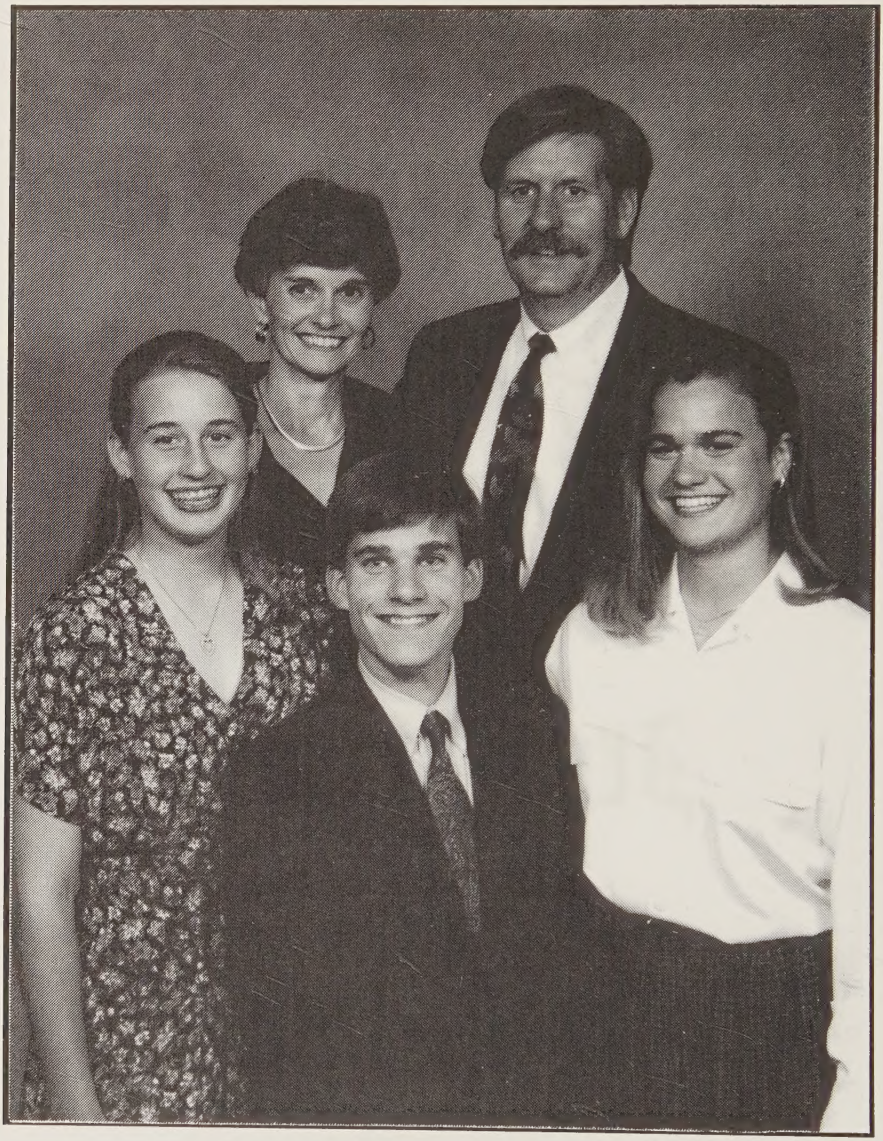
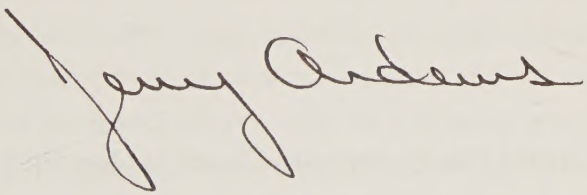


Rev. Jerry Andrews, our Senior Pastor, with his family

A Word from Jerry, Our Senior Pastor

Church history is primarily the story of God's dealings with God's people. The history of the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, beginning in 1926, is no different. As you turn these pages and hear stories of times past, read between the lines and look past the words to see what God has been doing with his people all along. Some things should be clear. God has called one people together in one place from a diversity of backgrounds, to have a common witness in the life of this community, and the life of the greater church and in the world. God has brought many leaders, ordained and unordained, through the life of the church to inspire, guide, and lead by example and word this one people. And it should also be clear that God has brought many, many people together. From small beginnings, a large and well established congregation continues to bear witness to God's calling and God's faithfulness. So while you read this book of history about a people, read it also as a book of God's story.



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Thanks and Things

First I must present to you a few folks who have been instrumental in bringing this book to its conclusion. They have been constantly at my beck and call through the months of preparation. First there is Ruth Morgenstern who undertook the time consuming job of reviewing 35 years of Session records, and supplying me with invaluable notes.

Then there is Bette Varvaro who, almost on a daily basis, printed out my computer efforts, always watching for errors, of which there were many. And this was all done with a happy and generous attitude.

And, of course, Bob Goldsborough, who reviewed my writing to make sure that all cuss words were eliminated, and all punctuation rules were adhered to.

My sincere thanks to them all.

In the thought of reducing the number of "whys" I might be hearing, let me outline why I did some things, and didn't do others. About photographs, I have included those of all of our Assistant and Associate Pastors, but none of the Senior Pastors, with the exception of our present Senior Pastor, Jerry Andrews. My reason is that all of our former Senior Pastors are hung (their portraits that is) in the Hall of Pastors that runs between the Narthex and the Christian Education Building.

In the naming of individuals, I have tried to name all of the Presidents of the various Boards, as well as the Clerks of Session. When writing the story of the first 25 years, I have tried to include a complete list of the originators and of the charter members. In addition I have listed the names of those who joined our congregation during those years, and who are still with us. After 1951, no individuals were listed for just joining the church. There were too many of you.

As I look into the future, I can see another church history being written in 2026 to mark our centennial. It is my hope that those of you who have the responsibility of keeping records will establish records that will give the writer the material and hopefully, detail that will make for an even better history than this. But I doubt it.

I love you all.

John Craddock

In the Beginning...

This is the third history of the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn. It is written to bring the record up to date and to mark the church's seventieth anniversary, which occurs on May 16, 1996.

The first history was written by one of our charter members, Mrs. William N. Graves, affectionately known as "Tad". Her efforts covered the years 1926 to 1951. It has never been published, and I believe the reason was that she refused to let a single word be changed. She was a feisty lady and a worthy organizer of our church. She closed her work with the statement: "I have put much data into the beginning of this history, as I think it most interesting to know just HOW DETERMINED these first organizers were to have a Presbyterian Church in Glen Ellyn."

The second history was written by a present member, Bob Goldsborough, and former member, Bob O'Brien. It was written to mark the fiftieth anniversary of our church in 1976, and is the history that most of our members will be familiar with. The two Bobs handled it by decades, comparing the growth of our church with the corresponding events in our national history. They did a masterful job and left me with a hard road to follow.

And now, number three, which covers all of the past right up to our seventieth anniversary. Beyond that, I leave for a pen other than mine.

Most of the years from 1926 to 1942 are unadulterated "Tad" Graves. She lived through these early years, so who better to guide us through them.

Prelude

The year was 1925 and Glen Ellyn was enjoying its position as one of the outstanding suburbs of Chicago. Following the end of World War I its population had grown dramatically. Its easy access from Chicago, its 200 room hotel overlooking its lake, its five mineral springs, its hills and glens, clothed in the greenery of the land and trees made it a most desirable place to live. It lacked only one thing to make it completely perfect—a Presbyterian Church!

There seemed to be enough folks with a Presbyterian background to make a church feasible, but they just hadn't come together. That situation was about to change. One resident who hungered for a Presbyterian church was Earle Twitchell. Earle had a good friend, John Wozencraft, who was in the real estate business and was also an ordained Presbyterian minister. Earle and John got together to see what could be done about organizing a church. They did a mini-survey to get some feel for the amount of interest there would be in a Presbyterian church in Glen Ellyn. The response, while not deep, was deep enough for them to continue their efforts.

Rev. Wozencraft approached the Chicago Presbytery with the request that they survey the village to measure the interest in establish-

ing a church. Presbytery responded by sending Rev. Thomas W. Smith, who make a thorough canvas of Glen Ellyn and reported back to Presbytery that the outlook for a church here was very favorable.

In October, 1925 a meeting was called by Rev. Wozencraft to be held in his office to start the wheels rolling. In addition to Rev. Wozencraft, this meeting was attended by Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Alspaugh, Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. William N. Graves, Mr. and Mrs. J. Andrew Myers, and Earle Twitchell. A few weeks later, after further discussion with Presbytery, it was decided to announce to the village that an open meeting would be held in January, 1926 to determine if definite plans should be advanced to establish a Presbyterian church. It was decided to ask Dr. Henry Seymour Brown, chairman of the Church Extension Board of Presbytery, to speak to this meeting.

The "January meeting" was held at the home of Earle Twitchell at the southwest corner of Main and Hawthorne. It was attended by Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Alspaugh, Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Breautigam, Mr. and Mrs. William N. Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gulbrandson, Dr. and Mrs. John C.W. Morrow, Mr. and Mrs. J. Andrew Myers, Mrs. Sarah Leitch, Mr. and Mrs. Earle Twitchell, Mrs. Twitchell Sr., and Rev. and Mrs. John Wozencraft. There were others who came only once and whose names were not recorded.

1926

After the January meeting things started to move rapidly. Presbytery approved the establishment of our church, and Earle Twitchell called for a meeting at his home on Feb. 12. At that meeting the necessary committees were established, and the first church service was scheduled for 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28 in the Music Room of Glenbard High School (now Glenbard West).

Another meeting was held Feb. 21, and at that time it was decided to hold mid-week services at the homes of the various members. Also at that meeting those present made pledges to the support of the new church.

Before the Feb. 28 worship, the members planned the details of the service, at which Rev. Henry Seymour Brown was to deliver the sermon. That morning was a clear, sharp winter day and 65 attended the service. However one essential had been overlooked—a collection plate. An inexcusable oversight in a Presbyterian church. Frank Gulbrandson came to the rescue and offered his bowler hat, which worked just fine.

That same day, Earle Twitchell called a meeting of several women to organize a Sunday School. Also the men made calls on all of those

who attended the worship service to invite them to join the church. At the end of that day pledges of $42 a week had been received, and we were on our way!

The first Sunday School service was held on March 5 with 26 students and 5 teachers. Earle Twitchell was appointed Superintendent and Edith Gulbrandson, Secretary and Treasurer.

The next week Mrs. L.H. Chamberlain was appointed to organize a Women's Society. The first officers were:

Mrs. S.S. Montgomery	President
Mrs. Earle Twitchell	Vice-President (Missions)
Mrs. Ernest McLeod	Secretary
Mrs. Fred Breautigam	Treasurer
Mrs. L.H. Chamberlain	Program Chairman

Semi-monthly meetings were held in the homes of the members.

The Sunday morning services continued to be held in the Glenbard Music Room, with pastors supplied by Presbytery. These pastors were paid $10 each Sunday, later being increased to $20. The desk in the music room was used as the pulpit. One Sunday, Bernice Morrow brought a bowl of sweet peas and placed it on the desk-pulpit, and that started a tradition.

On May 16, 1926 our church was officially organized with 52 charter members. Presbytery was represented by Rev. Henry Seymour Brown and Rev. John George Wozencraft. Officiating Elders were Mr. Pfund of 2nd Presbyterian Church of Oak Park, and J.W. Coutts and E.L. Obrien from First Presbyterian Church of River Forest.

This is the list of charter members:

Daniel W. Alspaugh
Mary Wilford Alspaugh, wife of Daniel
Clara Virginia Baughman
Frederick C. Breautigam
Clara S. Breautigam, wife of Frederick

Audrie Alspaugh Chase
William James Doherty
Edith Gertrude Doherty, wife of William
William John Doherty, son of William
Roland V. Emmons
Samuel Stewart Montgomery
Ruth E. Montgomery, wife of Samuel
George A. Wilson
Amanda Wilson, wife of George
Marion Wozencraft
Martha McLeod
Marion Twitchell
John George Wozencraft, Jr.
Marion Wozencraft (mother of Rev. John)
Sara Wozencraft
Louis Herbert Chamberlain
Jessie Chamberlain, wife of Louis
Jeanne Currie
Margaret Bell Currie
George Harlam Chenoweth
Lulla Viola Chenoweth, wife of George
Mabel A. Emmons
William N. Graves
Clara Reber Graves, wife of William
Phillip Ganzhorn
Mary Ganzhorn, wife of Phillip
Frank W. Gulbrandson
Edith Gulbrandson, wife of Frank
William N. Gawne, Jr.
Mary Gawne, wife of William Jr.
Donald W. Gawne, son of William, Jr.

Isabel Gawne, wife of Donald
Leon L. Kopelsky
Jean Currie Kopelsky, wife of Leon
Dr. John C.W. Morrow
Bernice Morrow, wife of John
J. Andrew Myers
Margaret Myers, wife of J. Andrew
Margaret H. McLeod
Cyrus Black Stafford
Laura M. Stafford
Earle Twitchell
Cecelia Twitchell, wife of Earle
Irving Haight Wanzer
Amy G. Wanzer, wife of Irving
Margaret McLeod
Lucille Paul
Mrs. R.H. Chenoweth

The first Session consisted of:
J. Andrew Myers for 3 years
Louis H. Chamberlain for 2 years
Samuel S. Montgomery for 2 years
William N. Graves for 1 year
Phillip Ganzhorn for 1 year

Louis Chamberlain was elected Clerk of Session and Rev. John Wozencraft was appointed to act as Moderator until a pastor was secured.

D. W. Alspaugh, F. C. Breautigam and R. V. Emmons were elected as Deacons.

The following members were elected to the Board of Trustees:

Earle Twitchell
Dr. John Morrow
William Gawne, Jr.
Rev. John Wozencraft
Frank Gulbrandson
William N. Graves

It would be many years before the Board of Trustees would be absorbed by the Session.

The Women's Society arranged for a congregational dinner to be held in the auditorium of Hawthorne School. The accommodations so pleased the folks that they immediately started negotiations to hold our services there until we had a building of our own. There is no data on what they had to eat, but if the ladies prepared it, it was surely good.

July 26 was our first church picnic. It was held at Herrick Lake and everybody had a wonderful time. That was a real old fashioned affair with races, games, swimming and even pink lemonade.

A Pastoral Nominating Committee had been working diligently to find a pastor for the infant church. Eventually a call was extended to Leslie G. Whitcomb of Evansville, Ind. He accepted the call and we had our first service with our very own minister on Oct. 3, 1926.

Right away, efforts were started to find a home of our own, and the James Patterson property at the northwest corner of Main and Anthony Streets was suggested. This frame house and lot could be purchased for $15,000. Our cautious congregation decided to see what else might be available before they made a decision. A special committee organized for that purpose, conducted a thorough examination of 10 sites before concluding that Main and Anthony was indeed the best buy available. This property was purchased with a down payment of $3,000 which was contributed by the church officers. (As this is written, our

congregation is contemplating an expenditure of 100 times the cost of the Patterson property. How could we persuade our present officers to emulate their predecessors?) The balance was covered by a loan of $12,000 from the Church Extension Board of Chicago Presbytery.

At a congregational dinner in November, Pastor Whitcomb mentioned that it would be nice if someone would donate linens for the communion table. Immediately Mrs. Alspaugh and Mrs. Currie agreed to supply the communion linen.

What an exciting year that was... a roller coaster of ups and downs, goods and bads. But the ups were so much greater than the downs. The infant church was indeed a communion and a community. Actually, it was our first covenant group.

...and that was 1926!

1927

At a congregational meeting held in St. Mark's Hall on January 4, a Building Committee was authorized to engage an architect. The firm of Granger & Ballenbacher was employed with instructions to furnish three plans of interior and one exterior perspective for a fee of $500. When presented, these plans called for a building of stone in a gothic design at a cost of $150,000 to be constructed in several units. The first unit would consist of an auditorium, Sunday School rooms, Ladies Parlor, Pastor's Study and other necessities at a cost of $50,000.

This proposal was eagerly accepted by the congregation and a fund raising program was put into effect. Every organization within the congregation made its own plans to raise the money required for the first unit. A men's dinner and a ladies luncheon were organized. The Women's Society had a variety of money raising plans. Individual members undertook their own special plans. Some had small at home bake sales, or made cookies or candy. Some sewed or knit—all for a price, and the proceeds all went to the Building Fund. The Women's Society pledged $3,500 to the new building and the Sunday School pledged $1,500. This from a membership of less than 100!

It is interesting to note that during this time of money raising, they never lost sight of their commitment to mission. In fact a strong thread of mission awareness has been consistent through the life of the church, from its inception to this day. They were determined that this financial challenge would be met by the congregation alone. The will of the congregation was specifically stated that "the merchants of Glen Ellyn would not be solicited for support." By March $40,635 had been raised in pledges.

The first annual meeting of the congregation was held on March 23, 1927 at the Hawthorne School. The statistics showed:

Charter members	52		
By confession	15		
By transfer	32		
By reaffirmation	2		
	101		
Death	1	Membership	100

The Pastor reported the first break in our church family in the death of Evans Merkes.

There is no detail of the work of the Women's Society during that first year, but we know that they were very active; baking and sewing and planning for the new church building.

The Sunday School had lots to report. With 13 officers and teachers and 112 scholars divided into 9 classes, they were on their way. The pledge of $1,500 that the school had made to the building fund produced some imaginative plans to raise the money. One idea was the "mile of pennies". Each class member was given a strip of paper about a foot long on which they were to fasten 12 pennies. They then turned it in and received another strip of paper to be filled. It was estimated that in two years they would have received in excess of $1,500 in pennies and their pledge would be over-subscribed. I can

find no record of the actual results, but I hope that it was successful. It deserved to be.

A permanent Superintendent was appointed—Mr. Cyrus Stafford. A Cradle Roll was established under Mrs. R.V. Emmons. A Primary Department was organized under Mrs. J.W. Russell.

The report of the Board of Deacons was given verbally by F.C. Breautigam.

The Session was increased from 5 to 9 elders.

The Deacons were increased from 3 to 7

The Trustees were increased to 6 or more.

In those early days, with such a small membership it was necessary for some officers to "wear more than one hat". It was also the custom from time to time for church officers to succeed themselves. We don't do that now. In Christian humanity retiring officers are assured at least one year to lie fallow before taking up a responsibility again.

That covered about all that occupied our very first Annual Congregational meeting. You will notice that these annual meetings were marked to cover a fiscal year starting April 1. It was several years before we changed to the calendar year.

The budget for 1927 was $5,660. The principal item was the pastor's salary of $4,000.

During 1926 and 1927 the Presbytery had budgeted $2,000 for our use. This was not used until we called a pastor at a salary of $4,000, when we used $833.33 of Presbytery funds. On April 1, 1927 Presbytery was notified that we were now on a self-sustaining basis and would no longer need their financial help. A great feeling!

The Women's Society was very active during this year. Mrs. Morrow and Mrs. Wozencraft were the pianists for the worship services and Mrs. Chamberlain played for the Sunday School. The women also took on the responsibility of furnishing flowers for the worship services. The members took care of this on an alphabetical basis and it

worked out extremely well. In May the Women's Society decided to divide into circles. There were four circles and they were identified as Circles No. 1, 2, 3 and 4. We'll have to watch the records to find out when they changed to named circles rather than numbered. In October the Society bought silverware for the church.

The Sunday School officially adopted the name, "Bible School of the First Presbyterian Church." Attendance awards, using the "Cross and Crown" symbols, were adopted. I believe that Betty Halvorsen received the greatest number of awards. I know she had a most impressive row of bars, and they are now displayed in the Hall of Pastors.

Mrs. Whitcomb was appointed in charge of the newly organized Cradle Roll.

The first Vacation Bible School was conducted in June. It was an ecumenical venture, as we joined with the Methodist and Congregational Churches.

A Christian Endeavor Society, a youth organization, was established in October and in December a Men's Club was organized under the leadership of Dr. J.L. Kendall.

What a year that was. Most of our worship services were held in Hawthorne School. Committee meetings were held in the homes of the various officers, and what a lot of committee meetings there were. I am fairly sure that there were at least 85 Board, Congregational and committee meetings during 1927. They were a very busy group getting organized to work for the Lord.

1928

The year started with a feeling of enthusiasm, which, unfortunately, would be greatly diminished before the end of the year.

The membership was 144 and the per capita tax was 25¢. Today the per capita tax is $14.99. The price of progress! The Bible School membership was 168. The average worship attendance was 71. The Women's Society membership was 72.

The Session decided to continue the Wednesday evening fellowship dinners. A Junior Christian Endeavor was started for children aged 8 and older. The first president was Marion Twitchell and the average attendance was 25. The church agreed to participate in the new pension plan for pastors. The fee was to be 7.5% of the pastor's salary.

L.H. Chamberlain was elected a commissioner to the General Assembly, which was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He took his wife along and she gave a detailed report of the Assembly to the Women's Society when they returned.

Ever since the purchase of the lot for our church home, the congregation was anxious to get started on a building. A meeting was called for Sept. 6 to receive and act on the report of the Building Committee. That report read:

"The Building Committee, after due deliberation, has received and approved the report of the Executive Committee as follows—We find that the building of the first unit of the church will cost $52,000, including the cost of financing and furnishings.

"That it will be necessary for arrears to be paid, pledges to be anticipated and new pledges in the amount of $15,000, making a total on hand of $22,000.

"That a loan of $30,000 be placed on the plant, and whereas this committee recommends that the program as outlined be adopted by the congregation,

"THEREFORE this committee recommends that the congregation authorize this committee to proceed with the building according to plans... that the Trustees be empowered to sign contracts and do such acts as may be necessary to carry out such project."

To this proposal, the congregation voted yes–26 and no–29. This rejection of the committee report was a great disappointment to the pastor and to most of the officers. In October Rev. Whitcomb asked the congregation to join him in requesting Presbytery that the pastoral relations between him and the church be terminated, effective Dec. 31, 1928. These two events had a distinct dampening effect on the life of the church, to the extent that the following resolution was proposed by the Session and distributed to the congregation:

"WHEREAS, at a joint meeting of the Session and the Trustees the analysis of the financial condition of our church indicated that there was a decided lack of interest and enthusiasm of a large percentage of the congregation, and,

"WHEREAS, this lack of interest and enthusiasm has resulted in a decided falling off in attendance at the Sunday morning service and at prayer meetings, and,

"WHEREAS, unless this congregation individually and collectively develops a spirit of Christian fellowship and realizes the truth of Paul's statement; 'For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid in Jesus Christ', and,

"WHEREAS, unless there is an immediate renewal of the Christian spirit and a rededication of each of the members to unselfish Christian service the church will fail of its purpose and its very life be in danger, now,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the joint boards of this church unite in the following Declaration of Purpose and Program for the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn:

"1. The joint boards assume with the help of Almighty God, the leadership and direction of the program for the reestablishment of our church on a basis so that we become true witnesses for Christ, and build on the only sound foundation which is Jesus Christ.

"2. In assuming this leadership, we the members of this joint board, realize that we must individually and collectively consecrate our lives to the work of the Master and pledge ourselves to all the activities of the church and our attendance at all of its meetings in so far as it is possible.

"3. We also realize the power of prayer and will depend upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our efforts, and individually will seek through prayer, God's will."

It is not difficult to understand the sweat, yes and the tears, too, that went into these resolutions. There must have been thoughts of whether our little church would survive. But survive it did.

Early in the year the church organized a basketball team that was part of the Church League. No records of how well they did, however. They MUST have won, anyway let us think so.

In the fall, Mrs. Leroy Halvorsen was named secretary of the Cradle Roll. She was Betty Halvorsen's mother.

Mrs. John Morrow was now President of the Women's Society. The Society had a joint meeting with the women of the Congregational Church in October, which was a splendid experience of the unity of Christian love, which goes far beyond denominational lines.

The Women's Society records at this point state: "that the urn be stored temporarily." If anyone knows the meaning of this cryptic statement, please don't tell. I like the mystery of it all. What have these women been up to?

On December 13 the Bible School was closed by order of the village authorities due to an influenza epidemic. What a way to end a year that didn't have much going for it anyway.

1929

So once more a Pastoral Nominating Committee was formed and the search for a pastor started.

After the Whitcombs moved from the manse, it became the standard meeting place for boards and committees, for dinners and socials and all kinds of activities. Remember, this "manse" was still the frame residence at the corner of Anthony and Main Streets. The Sunday worship services continued to be held in Hawthorne School.

The church membership was now at 154, and of that number 17 were non-residents. The membership of the Bible School was 168 and the average attendance was 85. In March Carl R. Gray, Jr. was appointed Superintendent of the Bible School, and in July had to resign as he was transferred by his employer to Minnesota, an alarmingly short term of office. He was succeeded by Halsey O. Harrington.

As there was no pulpit Bible, the Bible School purchased one and presented it to the church. The program of the Bible School seemed to be going along with slow but steady growth in attendance and without any financial problems. But this was 1929, the year of the Great Depression. It was this event that caused the Bible School to suspend payments to the Building Fund.

In June the Pastoral Nominating Committee presented Rev. Grover C. Whimsett to the congregation, and he was called by a vote of 36 to 2. He was to take office on Sept.1.

The annual Church picnic was held at Lily Lake on June 8, and 85 members and friends enjoyed the day. And the Women's Society seemed to be doing something all the time. Mrs. Carl R. Gray Jr. was elected President for the year. In March the women went into Chicago and hosted a simple party for the Jewish women of Pennial Center. In April the Society invested $400 in Village bonds at 6% interest. In May they pledged $5 per week to the support of the church, and Florence Towne, director of Erie Neighborhood House addressed the Society, and a letter was sent to our Senator supporting a bill proposed by the Anti-cigarette League.

In July Mrs. Gray resigned as President and was succeeded by Mrs. McLeod. In October a rummage sale was held and the Society bought 125 new hymnals. It seems that every new pastor has a favorite hymnal, which is never the one we are using. I wonder what happened to the ones we had to discard?

One item on the records that is easy to understand is that in September the Society decided to dispense with programs at their meetings—they just had too much business to spend time on entertainment. They closed the year with a bazaar in Acacia Hall on Dec. 8.

The impact of the Depression had just started to be felt in 1929. The years that followed reflected the full impact of this trying time in the life of our church.

1930

This seems to have been a rather uneventful year. The membership increased from 102 to 124, and the average attendance at worship services was 69. Bible School membership was 126.

The Women's Society requested permission from the Session to sponsor a movie at the Glen Theater. The Session rejected this request, "believing it wisdom not to enter into a partnership with the moving picture industry".

A grievance developed between two of our members. Apparently the difference was one of opinion but it was quite heated, so the Session instructed the Pastor to meet with the antagonists and try to bring peace to troubled waters. We would like to give you all the details, but alas, we don't have them. All that we can report is that the peacemaking efforts may or may not have been successful. Anyway, later records indicate that it was concluded that "The interest of the church can best be served by dropping the alleged grievance."

Our Bible School participated in a community Vacation Bible School with the Congregational, Episcopal and Methodist churches. The annual church picnic was held at Geneva.

The Women's Society agreed to participate with other village

churches in serving treats to the soldiers in Elgin Hospital. There is no record of how long this service lasted.

Mrs. L.S. Kopelsky was elected President of the Society.

In September comments concerning the Groups reveal a change of interest. Group 3 indicated in parenthesis the name "Gleaners" and Group 4 indicated "Friendship". Then in November groups 1 and 2 joined in with the names "Whatsoever" and "Goodwill" respectively.

Jan. 19, 1930 marked the death of Philip Ganzhorn, our first elder to die.

1931

This year started with operations proceeding with little excitement. As usual finances were a constant problem, and the Women's Society was asked to give to the Trustees the sum of $250 in order to "clear the books of the church." The Women's Society came to the rescue as usual and apparently the books were "cleared".

It was decided that there would be neither a bazaar nor a rummage sale this year, and that the Women's Society would concentrate its missionary efforts on behalf of Erie Neighborhood House and the Garibaldi Institute. The membership of the Society was 101.

The Bible School picnic was held at Pottawatomie Park in St. Charles on June 20. The Women's Society held a weenie roast at Lily Lake. Later they held a chicken pie dinner at Hawthorne School. The net receipts from the wienie roast were $1.60.

Irving W. Giese was appointed Superintendent of the Bible School, succeeding Halsey O. Harrington.

Our church was invited by the Congregational Church to share worship services with them for 10 Sundays, starting July 5. Dr. Williams of the Congregational church would preach in July and our Rev. Whimsett in August. This was helpful to both churches, although I do

believe our church got the greater benefit from the arrangement.

In March Earle Twitchell and his family moved to Scarsdale, N.Y. and transferred their membership to that town. On July 9, Rev. John G. Wozencraft died. These two men were the leaders in determining the need for a Presbyterian Church in Glen Ellyn and worked tirelessly for its establishment. Maybe some day when we decide to build another structure, their names might be remembered. They are worthy of such a remembrance.

In December a congregational meeting was held at which lengthy resolutions were presented by the joint boards. These resolutions called for the building of a Parish House at a cost of $14,000 and that the Building Committee be authorized to borrow a sum sufficient to supplement the present building fund which now stands at $8,700. Of the 40 voted cast, 37 were in favor and 3 were not.

And so the year 1931 closed with happy anticipation of a better church home.

1932

It is difficult for anyone who has not lived through the Great Depression as an adult to realize the dramatic effect that it had on our day to day existence. Income plummeted and, of course, prices tumbled too. A very satisfactory lunch cost about 35 cents. A 3-bedroom apartment in a desirable neighborhood of Chicago went for $37.50 per month. Thousands were thrown out of work, and if one was fortunate enough to keep one's job, the salary would be cut in half, or more.

This economic climate could not help but have a dramatic effect on the life or our church and its members. The 1931 budget was $5,421 and the 1932 budget came in at $1,795. We had been paying our pastor $4,000 annually, but in 1932 it was reduced to $1,040.

The Depression started soon after Rev. Grover Whimsett became our pastor, and the Board of Trustees, conscious of the sacrifices that the members were making to keep our doors open, decided to suspend contributions to the building fund and all efforts were concentrated in strengthening the congregation and the church. At the Annual Congregational meeting in March the Trustees reported that a bid for the construction of a Parish House was received in the sum of $13,979. The congregation decided to suspend action on this bid for 60 days. At that

same meeting Rev. Whimsett announced his resignation as pastor.

Some weeks following Rev. Whimsett's resignation the decision was made to postpone the building of a Parish House. During their pastorates both Rev. Whitcomb and Rev. Whimsett had resided in our church house. With it no longer being used as a manse, the Trustees made a survey of the building, and decided that by removing some partitions and doing some other remodeling we could get by with what we had for a time. These changes would enable us to seat a congregation of 70 for services, as well as have a pastor's study, Bible School rooms, and an upstairs apartment for the use of a caretaker and his wife. A total of $500 was transferred from the Building Fund for the purpose of this work, and on its completion we were able to transfer our services from Hawthorne School to our own little "Church by the side of the Road". At this time our membership was 83.

Both Mr. Stafford and Mr. Watson, who had served as Clerk, resigned, and Mr. Dudley R.Felkner was appointed Clerk of Session. That was in March and in May Mr. Felkner resigned and Mr. L.H. Chamberlain was called back to fill that office again. Mr. Frank Gulbrandsen was named Custodian of Church History data. Mrs. Fred Steinhoff was in charge of the Cradle Roll. The Pulpit Supply Committee employed Mr. Lawrence E. Schwarz as pulpit supply to serve for 6 months. At that time Mr. Schwarz was studying for a divinity degree at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Chicago.

The problems of the church were reflected in the Bible School, but, like the church, it kept plugging along. The Women's Society too, kept busy. They organized more congregational dinners and these dinners were very important in helping to keep the members united and their interests focused on the Lord.

1933

This year, still in the depth of the Depression, marked two events that were meaningful to the general public, even if they didn't have a noticeable effect on our church family. The first event was the closing of all banks for some days. This action was taken to control dramatic runs on banks, resulting in many instances of bankruptcy. The second event was a bit more upbeat. "The Century of Progress"—Chicago's World's Fair—ran for two years, and was helpful in easing the depression a little bit in Chicago.

At the end of 1932 we had employed divinity student, Lawrence E. Schwarz as interim minister. He was well received by the congregation. When he was ordained early in 1933 the church then called him to be our pastor. He accepted the position and was paid $25 per week for months that had 4 Sundays and $20 per week in 5 Sunday months. Having that settled, Rev. Schwarz got married and moved to Glen Ellyn, in that order. Once more we had a pastor.

The shortage of cash was a constant problem for the Trustees. Their state of mind is best told by Tad Graves, whom I quote: "Many were the times that the Trustees did not see how they could continue and would become quite discouraged. Then, with spirits at a low ebb, Mr. Gawne,

Chairman of the Board and of Scottish descent, would tell them a Scottish story. The Trustees would have a good laugh, forget the struggle the church was having and would fight all the harder to carry on".

Our 2-story frame building that had been church office, pastor's study, Bible School classrooms, meeting rooms and living quarters for our custodian was about to become our sanctuary. Our pastor was to be supplied with a manse (rented) and with some careful remodeling the old building would indeed be our church. Accordingly, in April the building was dedicated to the worship of God. On Sep. 10 Rev. Schwarz was installed as Pastor and again we were on our way. Our young pastor worked hard to develop the baby church, and his efforts indeed bore fruit. He was an interesting preacher and a kind and considerate pastor. We had started the year with a membership of 83, and that figure soon started to grow.

As usual, the Women's Society worked diligently to keep the church moving along. They put on dinner after dinner not only to make money, but also to serve to tie the congregation together and strengthen the church. This was before television and much of our entertainment was of the home-made sort. One special dinner was scheduled for Feb. 6. The charge for the dinner was 45 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. The weather was awful that February, so the dinner had to be postponed to Feb. 17. Between the 6th and the 17th, the "bank closings" took effect, so the dinner was served on Feb. 17, but the charge was reduced to 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children.

Society members were urged to bring donations of food to each meeting, which was then distributed to the needy families of the community. Another interesting plan to raise money was the "crucible" committee. The ladies were urged to give items of gold or silver which was then to be melted down and sold. I can find no record of just how successful the melt-down was.

Mrs. C.R. Kranz was serving as President of the Society that year. Mrs. W.J. Russell was elected as Elder, our very first woman Elder.

You may recall that some time back the Women's Society invested $400 in Village Bonds. This year they received interest on the bonds. It was 90 cents for each of the 4 bonds. And then the Glen Ellyn State Bank failed, which resulted in a loss of $26 to the Bible School.

In November a congregation-wide bake sale was held to help "relieve the Trustees of their heavy financial burden". A combined entertainment and tea was held at the Congregational Church. It was sponsored by the women of the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Congregational, and Presbyterian churches.

The year closed with the resignation of our custodian, Mr. Ross, who left to return to his native Scotland. I can't help but think that the men of our church had been unbelievably wise or smart or lucky in the ladies that they married. They've done so much.

1934

In Chicago this year was marked by the second and final year of the Century of Progress, but in Glen Ellyn it was just another year of the struggles of creating a church.

At the annual meeting in March, Mrs. Edith Gulbrandsen was elected Elder—the second woman to be so elected. Mr. LeRoy Brockett was appointed Clerk of Session, to succeed Mr. Chamberlain. On Sunday, June 3 the Bible School merged with the congregation for the annual Children's Day Service. At that service these children were baptized: John Carleton Gulbrandsen, Betty Marie Halvorsen, Margueritte Ann Sebring and Dorothy Jane Sebring. Betty Halvorsen is still a member of our church.

The Women's Society decided to have a dinner in June to mark the centenary of Glen Ellyn. On reaching the decision that our little house by the side of the road would not hold many diners, it was decided to join with the Episcopal Church ladies and have the celebration at their church. At that time our membership was 61 in the Women's Society. I find it hard to follow the identifications of the various groups. I thought we were all set with four groups, each with a name; but now I find them identified as Number 1, 2, 3 and 4 again. Here and there is mention of the Gleaners, the Whatsoever, the Onward and the Opti-

mists. In August the Society decided to merge three of the groups as a means of "furthering the work of the Society". So, by the end of the year we record three groups, identified as the Whatsoever, the Onward and the Optimist.

In January of this year we find the first mention of a Communicants Class and also the installation of a Church Calendar in the Pastor's office. Also for the first time, children from Erie Neighborhood House were invited out to Glen Ellyn to spend the day. Twenty children, accompanied by Miss Florence Towne, were served lunch at the church and were then escorted down to Lake Ellyn Park for games and fun. The practice continued on an annual basis for some years. I remember attending one such affair, and I believe it continued until the late 1940s.

The Church membership was 99 and the Bible School membership 100. The records indicate that the By-laws were revised at this time, but no details can be found of what the changes were. Mrs. Bernice Morrow accepted appointment as church pianist, provided that she would not direct the choir and must be paid regularly $10 on the first day of each month. Knowing Bernice, I am sure that $10 was waiting for her on the first of every month.

A mysterious item in the Session records refers to the activity of the "Committee of Ten". Intense research reveals that this was a committee formed to protect the morals of the community against indecent motion pictures. We were not alone in this effort as several of the village churches were of a mind with us. Resolutions and petitions were prepared and forwarded to the local and Chicago papers, also to civic authorities. No apparent results came from this effort, and our church finally decided to leave that policing to the parents.

Our congregation seems to be an ideal of rectitude, so it is difficult to accept an action that was taken in December. This action originated in the Women's Society, but was approved by the Session. It was the proposal to hold a "Day of Frivolity!". Oh, to have been around for that affair. With that ambiguous note we bring 1934 to a close.

1935

The growth from year to year was slow and, while there was much enthusiasm it seemed to be contained within a relatively small group. As always, finances remained a problem. The budget for this year was only $2,739 of which $2,640 was for operating expenses and $99 was for mission. But these sums had to be raised from a membership of 112. That figure had to be converted to families and further consideration must be given to the depression economy, which was just about dormant.

Despite the gloomy outlook, things went forward, but at a much slower pace than the congregation would have liked. As usual the Women's Society were constant in their efforts to raise money through bake sales, rummage sales, bazaars and individual activities. Mrs. Roessal was elected President of the Women's Society. She had to resign one month later, and the presidency was then taken over by Mrs. Morrow. The membership of the Society was at this time 75. The records for March show that the Society made a gift of $30 to the Trustees to "cover the indebtedness on the Women's Society bonds in order that the bonds may be released." I can find no other mention of

these bonds, and if they were indeed released, nobody mentioned it in the records.

The Session approved the sponsorship of a Cub Scout pack. It did not approve the request from the Young Peoples Group to sponsor a dance. Later in the year the Session discussed the matter of dancing and card playing as part of the church activities, but no conclusions seem to have been reached.

Church services were suspended for the month of August and some board meetings were not held. The Committee of Ten seems to be still active, as it is reported to have sent a petition to Governor Henry Horner, the content of which is not recorded.

Mr. William Gawne died on July 1. He was a charter member and was very active in the organization of the church. He served as a Trustee from the beginning and at the time of his death was Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Frank Gulbrandsen was elected to succeed him as Chairman.

1936

We have reached our tenth anniversary, and we are still alive, although some people would question that. The local press reported that "few churches have met more discouraging times than have existed during the first ten years of the First Presbyterian Church. In spite of the conditions, 'God's Church by the Side of the Road' has come through in fine fashion". We do appreciate the optimistic view of the press.

The Bible School was handicapped by the resignation of Mr. Schreyack as Superintendent. It seemed impossible to find a successor, and the program was able to continue through the dedication of the teachers and Mr. Fred Clemenson of the Session.

The Women's Society now had a membership of 84, and continued in its untiring efforts to raise money in order to keep the church going. It asked every member to donate $1 in order to meet its mission apportionment.

The Session petitioned the Church Extension Board for financial aid in order to meet its budget. This request was denied. At March 25, the balance in the church operating account was $46.17 and there were unpaid bills amounting to $1,752.69. Presbytery suggested that

we obtain a valuation of our property and an estimate of the cost of a church building, after which we could apply to the Board of National Missions for financial help. Another item that concerned the Session was the apparent lack of interest in prayer meetings as part of the worship program, and the congregation was urged to manifest an interest and desire for such meetings during the year to come.

Our tenth birthday was celebrated on May 18. The morning sermon was delivered by Rev. Mr. Ruby of the Church Extension Board. In the afternoon a service of thanksgiving and celebration was held. The program was organized by the Women's Society and Mrs. Kopelsky baked a huge birthday cake. The Tuxis members provided the musical program. Friends and ministers from the other village churches were invited, and our little "church" hosted over 150 persons on that wonderful day. A letter of congratulations was received from our first minister, Rev. Leslie Whitcomb. He wrote:

> "The approach of Sunday, May 17 reminds me of the fact that this marks for the Glen Ellyn Church the completion of ten years of its organized ministry, and I should not like to have this occasion pass without a word of greeting and good will.
>
> "As time is reckoned, ten years doesn't seem to be a long period, but estimated in terms of a Church's first experiences, it means a great deal.
>
> "There are included the courageous first steps in the new adventure, the aggressive initiative of the first leaders, the definition of ideals and objectives in terms of concrete programs, and the commitments to be the new undertaking in definite spiritual and financial pledges.
>
> "There, too, are the adjustments of personalities, and the welding together of a congregation by the very conflicts and difficulties, of such a situation, and the spiritual drawing

together of the members by the first successes, disappointments and anticipations.

"One must live through those first experiences of a new congregation to appreciate the great heritage which has come to the world in this tremendous thing we call the Christian Church.

"As its first pastor, naturally I recall very vividly the early days at Glen Ellyn.

"The beautiful, earnest, stirring prayers of those cottage gatherings, the very helpful, happy forming of new friendships among our first members—the sacrificial giving that brought such joy and encouragement, the rapid growth of the spiritual of individuals—these and a score of other impressions will live in the memories of many of us through the years to come.

"If our very zeal for advancement of the New Church made us impatient and perhaps short-sighted at times, it was only that God might work out His larger Will, and I am sure all has been for the good.

"Mrs. Whitcomb and the children join me in bringing the very kindest regards to you, the Pastor, the Session, and all who are joined with you on this occasion of recollection and devotion.

"Sincerely and Cordially Yours,
Leslie G. Whitcomb."

It seems appropriate to close the record of this very special year by quoting the closing paragraph of the report of the Clerk of Session, Mr. LeRoy Brockett:

"During a year in which uncertain economic conditions have continued, we commend the spirit of cheerful willingness with which the members of this church Board, and all the

officers and members of this church have fulfilled the tasks which they were called upon to do. The Session wishes to commend our Pastor who has continued to show that fine spirit of leadership which will carry us on to greater progress during the coming year."

This depression WILL end, and then just watch us!

1937

The year started with a membership of 140. We had taken in 29 new members. A program of home meetings was initiated, and seemed to be reasonably successful. Exploring the future of church life in Glen Ellyn, our church, in conjunction with the Methodist and Congregational churches arranged for a series of three union services to be held on Sunday evenings over a period of three months, one church to host one monthly meeting. The last of these three meetings was held in our church, and the response was such that the feeling was that they might be continued at a later date.

Mr. Roessel resigned at Clerk of Session, and Mr. Fred Clemenson was appointed to take over that office.

The Bible School continued to experience a modest growth. The average attendance was 69, despite the lack of a Superintendent.

Here we find the first detailed report from the Board of Deacons. Mr. Fred Steinhoff was chairman and their responsibilities consisted of Sunday ushering and calling on new members.

The first women's day of worship was held on Feb. 14. Mrs. Fred Steinhoff was President of the Women's Society, which had a membership of 71. The Society pledged $520 to church support, which for some reason sounds like more than $10 weekly.

One cryptic item appears in the annual report of the Women's Society. It reads: "provision made for restoration of cemetery lot in Glen Ellyn complimentary to Miss Towne of Erie Chapel." What did it mean? Was it something that should be included in the history of the Church? This called for some research, so I first approached Erie Neighborhood House Director, Mr. Ravelo, then former Director Rev. Ross Lyman and then three members of the Board. All I found from them was that Florence Towne had died in 1951. So then I talked to Rev. Richard Dempsey who was our pastor in 1951, and he was no help at all. Then to the Cemetery Association where I talked to the head man and also to his assistant. They had no record of either our church or of Miss Towne. Then to Leonards Funeral Home—no luck. Then to our present Women's Society President and to three of the members. Finally by inspiration to Miss Betty Halvorsen who answered all my questions. Miss Towne was very fond of Glen Ellyn and had a great many friends among the membership of our church. Some time before 1937, she purchased a lot in our Forest Hill Cemetery, and she was buried there in 1951. That was what our women had been "restoring". It is doubtful if this has any place in our church history, but I include it to emphasize how necessary it is when writing reports they should be written that they may be understood 50 years later.

In October Rev. Lawrence Schwarz tendered his resignation as our Pastor to accept a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Oak Park, effective Nov. 14. We were getting lots of experience in seeking pastors. Rev. Schwarz's resignation seemed to have a dampening effect on the congregation. So much so that a representative from Presbytery suggested that we face our problems, which were mostly financial, and decide on one of three options: Consolidate with another existing church, close up, or carry on. With a determination that has to be admired, the congregation unanimously decided to carry on, and thus it did.

1938

The year started with a call to Rev. Jerome E. Webber, but for some reason, that was rejected. So everything went along as before when our pulpit was vacant. No election of officers was held, the by-laws being suspended until a minister was called. The membership reached 151 and one of the new member classes included Fred and Sylvia Baker. Fred has since died, but Sylvia is seldom absent from Sunday services. She is the oldest active member in terms of membership at the time this is written (1994).

In June a call was presented to Rev. Edwin D. Miner of the Broad Street Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Ohio. The call was accepted, and Mr. Miner came to us at a salary of $2,400. Now the activities took on a new vigor under Rev. Miner's leadership. Mrs. John Morrow continued as church organist and Miss Helen Waggoner (Ward) as soloist. Discussion was started to organize a regular choir and this went forward with speed.

Thanks to the efforts of Rev. Miner, the Church Extension Board wiped out the church's debt, and again the boards began to think about the construction of a church building. In December a new Building Committee was formed.

The Women's Society continued to grow. It's membership was now 80, and to the three existing groups, a new group was added. This new group was named "Miner". The financial support to the church was increased from $10 weekly to $12.50. Bonds that were held by the Women's Society were sold and the proceeds were put in a "Reserve Account".

As was its custom, the Society devoted its June meeting to entertaining a group of children from Erie Neighborhood House and its leaders. This was a wonderful missionary effort and it was continued for many years. Members of the Society drove in to Chicago and transported the children and their leaders to Glen Ellyn. The members of the Society joined their guests at lunch, which was served at the church. Following a satisfying lunch the children were driven down to Glen Ellyn Park, where they enjoyed games as well as the swings. Mr. Robertson, a member of the church, furnished a miniature railroad, with engine and coaches which operated on a fairly long track. All the children got the opportunity to take a train ride. Following a happy afternoon, the ladies of the Society then drove everyone back to Chicago and Erie. Undoubtedly the ladies of the Women's Society enjoyed this occasion as much as did our guests.

In October a Rummage Sale was to be held in the Piggly Wiggly store on south Main Street. The arrangements didn't work out and the Rummage Sale was held at the church rather that at Piggly Wiggly. (Remember that store?)

The spiritual activities of the church took a dramatic upward swing under the leadership of Mr. Miner, and his enthusiasm seemed to affect our members. Things were looking up.

1939

Two minor problems appear to be on the minds of the boards, and have been for a year or two. One is the need for a ventilating fan and the other a small leak in the ceiling over the pulpit. Each year they appear in the minutes and each year they are going to be taken care of. The next year, there they are again, and 1939 is no exception; they are still unresolved problems. Could it be that the pastor used an umbrella when he preached on rainy days?

Again a Building Committee was formed. This new committee consisted of Rev. Miner, Fred Steinhoff, LeRoy Brockett, Halsey Harrington, George Wozencraft, Jr., Mrs. Clarence Jack, Mrs. Edward Burns, Mrs. George Otis and Miss Edna Kuhnert. To clear the decks, action was taken that any building committee heretofore constituted by the congregation was discharged. Mr. Fred Steinhoff was elected Chairman of the Committee and Mrs. George Otis, Secretary. Mr. Leif Olsen, a member of the architectural firm of Olsen and Urbain, was selected as architect. This Leif Olsen is the father of our Leif Olsen, a present member.

Elder Fred W. Clemenson was elected by Presbytery as delegate to the General Assembly which was held in Cleveland, Ohio in May. All

the activities of the church seemed to take on a new vigor. Church attendance was up, the Men's Club, Women's Society, Bible School and Tuxis all were experiencing an enthusiasm that was new and exciting. The Men's Club staged a minstrel show at Acacia Hall. Jane (Mrs. Clarence) Jack was elected President of Women's Society, and 18 new members were received. Communion candlelight services were held on Good Friday evening in our little church. There were two services on Easter morning, both of which stretched the facilities of our building. These services were the first at which the candelabra and candle sticks were used. These items were made by Mr. Beck, the father of Mrs. Gulbrandsen and Mrs. Halvorsen and were gifted by him to the church. The candelabra is still in use in the chapel, usually for weddings, but the candle sticks seem to have disappeared since the sconces donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hampe were installed in the 1970s. The Bible School reported a record attendance of 125.

While the main point of interest with all groups was the plans for the new building, this interest seemed to have a positive effect in all that we did.

It was a year of promise.

1940

Ventilating fan is to be installed soon, but no mention of the leaky ceiling.

The Good Friday services were held in Acacia Hall and the Easter Sunday service at the Glen Theater. Among the new members received this spring was Ray and Julia Gerber. Ray served as Deacon and Elder. He died several years ago. Julia was very active in the Women's Society and in all the church activities. In recent years she has been unable to attend services because of failing health, but at this time she is still a member, and, though not so active, continues to support her church (1994).

The policy of the Session, meeting with prospective new members and examining them prior to their election into membership was established this year.

Helen Wagoner (Ward) was unable to continue as soloist for $1 weekly, so her fee was increased to $2 weekly, which she indicated was satisfactory. Discussion continued on the possibility of organizing a church choir. Our membership had increased to 207.

The Women's Society offered to pay for the ventilating fan if it did not exceed $20. The Society wants to redecorate the church and would furnish the materials if the Trustees would supply the muscle. The Trust-

ees were given $100 to "help pay their bills". The weekly pledge to church support was increased from $12.50 to $15.

The Bible School had a membership of 175, and they were decidedly crowded for room. A suggestion was made to convert the downstairs bathroom to a classroom, but I don't believe that was ever done. Mrs. Gulbrandsen was named President of the Cradle Roll. Mr. and Mrs. Edmonson were to be in charge of Tuxis.

The main focus this year was the proposed church building. Mr. Charles Gordon, President of the Board of Trustees, was authorized to spend not more than $100 for sketches of the proposed building, the building to cost not more than $25,000. The Board was empowered to pay off the existing mortgage on the church property in order to have a clear title. The balance was $3,000. It was the unanimous opinion of the Corporation that we should proceed with plans for a new building.

At this time we learn of the "Building Finance Trust". This was the plan to raise the money for the building of the church. Members and friends were invited to subscribe to bonds in any amount from $100 up. The church then bought an annuity policy in the name of each individual for the amount of that pledge. The annuity was for 35 years and the premiums were to be paid by the church. Should the pledger die before the pledge was paid, the annuity was paid to the church, which retained the unpaid amount of the pledge, and paid the balance of the annuity to the beneficiary of the pledger. So for 35 years the church was committed to pay these premiums. When the annuities matured in 1975 the church was still paying premiums on 14 policies. These policies were in the name of individuals that we were unable to trace, despite a serious effort to do so.

At the end of the year, the Session approved the appointment of Olsen & Urbain as architects and also the Trustees taking a construction loan up to the full amount of the pledges, which at that time was $12,000.

What a busy year. Oh, yes. The leak over the pulpit is still there.

1941

This was the year that we were to accomplish the building of a new church home, and much of our thought and activity revolved around that project.

The bid received for its construction was for $45,000. After much study and some modifications, the cost was reduced to $36,325, with an additional $1,000 for the removal of the existing building. It was on that basis that we proceeded. Significantly, this year was our 15th anniversary.

The plans called for the moving of the present frame church building to the west end of the property and turning it to face south. The interior was then remodeled to provide Bible School rooms, Pastor's study, and living quarters for the custodian and his wife. This move meant that for several weeks we were without any place to conduct services or Bible school. Our friends at the Methodist Church came to our rescue by offering their facilities for our use. Later all services were held at Hawthorne School until the new building could be used.

The laying of the cornerstone was the focus of an elaborate service on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 7. A temporary platform was erected on which the special guests were seated. They were our Pastor, Edwin

D. Miner; Rev. G.A. Spaulding of River Forest; Rev. Crocker of Glen Ellyn Methodist Church; Dean Gowan Williams of St. Marks Episcopal Church; Rev. Matthew Sweet of Clarendon Hills Presbyterian Church; Rev. Charles P. Andrews, Retired; Rev. W.H. Jaynes of Wheaton Second Baptist Church; Mrs. Robert McClure, President of the Women's Society; Mr. LeRoy W. Brockett, Elder; Mr. Charles W. Gordon, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Miss Helen Waggoner, our soloist; and Mrs. John C.W. Morrow, our pianist. Following prayer by our Pastor, these items were placed in the copper container:

A roll of the officers and members of the church by Charles W. Gordon

A roll of the members of the Women's Society by Mrs. Robert McClure

The church history by William N. Graves

A roll of the officers, teachers and pupils of the Bible School by Rev. Charles P. Andrews

A list of subscribers to the Building Fund by Dr. John C.W. Morrow

A list of the Building Committee members by Mrs. George Otis

A roll of the officers and members of Tuxis Society by Miss Elizabeth Vail

A copy of the *Glen Ellyn News* and of the *Wheaton Journal* and a program of this ceremony, a picture of the old building and a photo of the Beginners Class and, finally a copy of the New Testament by Mr. LeRoy Brockett

After a solo by Miss Waggoner, the first trowels of mortar were placed by Mrs. McClure and Mr. Gordon, The ceremony was attended by a large number of the congregation as well as by many friends and neighbors.

Our membership was now at 256. Mr. O'Brien resigned as Superintendent of the Bible School, and was succeeded by Mr. LeRoy Brockett. In order to establish a church choir, Mr. Elmer Thompson was engaged as organist and choir director. Emily (Mrs. Robert) McClure was elected President of the Women's Society. The Society purchased a membership in the Chicago Christian Industrial League, and our interest in that mission still continues. Mr. Ned Hoeppner had represented the church on the Board of the League for some years.

A plan to rotate the membership of the several groups in the Women's Society was discussed and was tabled indefinitely. A new group was formed and was named the Florence Towne Group. A suggestion was offered that the Women's Society have a "Bright Idea" show. I wonder whose bright idea that was?

This year Curtis and Tillie Moore joined our church. Curtis passed away some years ago, but Tillie is still regular in her attendance at worship.

And then there was Dec. 7 1941, and again we were at war. Despite shortages, we were able to obtain the steel we needed for the new building, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Fred Steinhoff. Each day the walls kept growing, brick by brick.

1942

Finally, we had a church building that looked like a church building. Our activities were centered on determining the use to which this building was to be put; what we might and might not do in and around it.

The first services were held on April 12 with Mr. Miner preaching. 290 attended the morning service and 225 in the afternoon. This entire week was a celebration. The first visiting minister was Rev. Ward of the Oak Park Church. This seemed to us to be appropriate as the congregation of the Oak Park Presbyterian Church had been most supportive of us both in their interest and financially in the days of our struggle to become established. At the mid-week service Dean Gowan Williams of St. Marks Episcopal Church preached. This service was preceded by a dinner served in Westminster Hall for our members and friends. On Sunday, April 19 Dr. Paul Johnson of the Church Extension Board was the preacher. In the afternoon the service was conducted by Dr. John Timothy Stone of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. This service was followed by a reception to which not only our members but the entire village was welcomed.

It is appropriate to list here the memorial gifts presented to the church as it opened its doors.

The Pulpit in memory of Herman W. and Charlotte N. Maack also James L. and Mary C. Touse.

The Lectern in memory of Miss Mary Johnson.

The Cross, candlesticks and vases in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob P. Hohr.

The Baptismal Font in memory of Bolivar C. and Eva R. Reber.

The Communion Chalice in memory of Rev. J. Gilbert.

Pews were given in memory of:

Rev. John Wozencraft
Matilda Gordon
George W. Vail
Thomas F. Fleeson
Philip Ganzhorn and Gertrude G. Ruckert
Ernest F. McLeod
Mr. and Mrs. Selke
Harvey and Marcia Harrington
Melvin P. and Henry Gerber
Richard and Elizabeth Williams
Martha S. Hedrick and J.W. Raney
Rev. and Mrs. A.L. Campbell
Mary Woods McDowell
Nicholas and Marie Gulbrandson

The Church Steeple in memory of Virginia O'Brien.

The advent of World War II did nothing to ease the problems of building our church. As soon as war was declared, restrictions were placed on the use of copper, brass, and steel, and there were no more gas connections. In order to save our situation, some members of our Building Committee made a temporary gas plate connection late one night in order to beat the deadline. Thanks to the efforts of our architect, Leif Olsen, we were able to obtain the last structural steel beams available in the State of Illinois. Hardware, lighting fixtures and windows had to be pre-purchased in order to beat the established dead-

lines. There were labor shortages, too, due to enlistments in the armed forces. These were hectic and exciting days. This was a church built, not by a committee, but by the entire congregation. For instance on the day before the dedication, 42 members came out with pails, scrub brushes, dust cloths, brooms, soap and muscle. They worked from early morning until late evening washing windows, scrubbing floors, dusting, cleaning up the debris, doing landscaping. I remember it well; Bernice and I were assigned to scrub the floor of the balcony and the stairs up to it. It was a day rich with fellowship and love.

The week following the dedication, a meeting was held to plan for the purchase of an organ. This was under the leadership of Kimball Neal, and in short time the organ was purchased. The donors, who were many, dedicated the organ to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Gawne.

While all this was going on, the spiritual life of the congregation had to keep going too—and it did. The first class of new members, which was received in May, included Mrs. Warren Petrie, who is still a member at this time (1994) although she is seldom able to come to services because of failing health. Also in this class was Bernice Campbell Craddock, and her husband, John—me. Bernice died in 1992, but I am still around. Mr. Ralph Boyden was appointed Music Director. The Board of Deacons undertook to sponsor Boy Scout Troop #46. The Deacons also acted as air raid wardens during church services and the Pastor put in 24 hours a week in Coast Guard service. The Women's Society operated a canteen for service men on the first Saturday of each month. This was at the railroad station. The members of the Society contributed 1,006 hours of work for the Red Cross. A new group was formed—the Gleaners. Mrs. John Calderwood was elected President of Women's Society. The Optimist group donated the choir robes. Mrs. Reynolds resigned as Chairman of the Cradle Roll.

We were busy, but what a joy it was to work together for the Lord and His church.

1943

Our congregation, together with every one else was deeply concerned over the war, its effect on our country and more especially on the lives of our young people. Mr. Miner had a large service flag made. It was hung over the door to the left of the pulpit. As each young person entered the military service, a blue star was added to the flag. At war's end there were 76 stars on the flag. Of the 76 stars, five of them were gold stars. These represented those who had given their lives in the conflict. They are:

Carl Edward Kant
Ray North
Charles Finley Russell
James W. Swallen
Cyrus B. Stafford, Jr.

Through it all, our church was active and growing. The Tuxis Society donated curtains for Westminster Hall. Dr. William N. Holmes was appointed Director of Music to succeed Mr. Ralph Boyden, who resigned. Mr. Herman DeBoer was appointed Choir Director. John Craddock was elected to the Board of Deacons, and that board was increased from 12 to 15. At the same time, the Board of Trustees was

increased from 6 to 10. Mr. LeRoy Brockett resigned as Superintendent of the Bible School. In the Women's Society everyone was as busy as bees. Mrs. Orpha Hedrick was the new President. One interesting activity was the sponsorship of a booth at Woolworths for the sale of War Bonds. This sponsorship lasted for two weeks, and was then taken over by another church. The Organ committee under Mr. Kimball Neal raised the necessary funds, and the new electronic organ was installed. That made us sound like a church as well as look like one.

1944

This must have been an "in between" year. Nothing very exciting happened. On June 6, the day the Allied forces landed in Normandy our church doors were open all day and late into the evening for the convenience of those who wished to enter for prayer or meditation.

For the first time, the budget of $7,404 was fully covered by pledges. Dr. W.N. Holmes resigned as Director of Music. John Craddock was appointed Superintendent of Bible School. Mrs. Selke was named Superintendent of the Cradle Roll. Mr. Charles N. Bailey resigned as President of the Board of Deacons, and was succeeded by John Craddock.

Women's Society records indicate that there were 6 groups, named Gleaners, Miner, Onward, Mary & Martha, Fidelis and Florence Towne. A new evening group was being organized with Miss Shirley Jacobs as chairman.

Quiet as it appears, boards and committees met, things were accomplished, new members joined our congregation and the pastor kept on preaching and encouraging.

1945

Apparently this, too, was a very quiet year. Nothing exciting happened. Mrs. Dorothy Johns was elected President of the Women's Society. The Trustees presented a budget of $8,412, which was approved.

The Women's Society seemed to find that a rummage sale was a profitable means of raising money, so they had another one in April. As usual, it was held in Westminster Hall and the tables were piled high with things to sell. One unusual item that was for sale was a corset. It was passed up by most bargain hunters, but finally one customer brought the corset over to one of the attendants and asked its price, as it had not been marked. The attendant, not knowing how to price it, took it in to Mrs.Johns in the kitchen. In looking it over, Mrs. Johns found a suspicious lump and on investigating found that the corset contained $200 which had been sewn into the lining. She removed the money and returned the corset with a price, but the interested customer, for some reason had second thoughts after finding that the item had lost some of its bulk while being priced. Just because it was such an unusual item, the ladies remembered that it had come, with several other items, from a family who had recently lost their

mother, and so were able to return the money to where it belonged.

In March, Shirley A. Jacobs (Kopp) joined the church, as did Cora and Henry Vanderleest. Henry died some years ago, but Cora is still very active, doing much fill-in work in the church office.

In August the Japanese surrendered, and once again we were at peace. That is a good note on which to end the year.

1946

Here we are, now 20 years into our mission. The occasion was celebrated with a dinner and program in Westminster Hall. The evening was sponsored by all the boards of the church under the chairmanship of Mrs. Dorothy Johns. Our guest of honor was Rev. Lawrence Schwarz, our former pastor. 140 members and friends attended the affair, which was presided over by our own pastor, Rev. Edwin D. Miner. Mrs. John Morrow gave an account of the activities of the church from 1926 up to date, stressing the role of the Women's Society in the church's growth. Mr. William N. Graves, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, reported on the temporal and spiritual role of the Session, Trustees, Deacons, and Bible School since 1926. Rev. Lawrence Schwarz gave an inspiring talk on the crises met and overcome to reach our present position.

Mr. L.T. Frederick was elected commissioner to the General Assembly at Atlantic City, N.J. Much discussion centered on the proposed merger of the Presbyterian and Episcopal denominations, but the response was not favorable; in fact it was described as hopeless. Another merger proposal which received a much more favorable reception was that of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian denominations.

Mrs. Spink resigned as organist and choir director. She was succeeded by Mrs. Malm as organist and Mr. Herman DeBoer as choir director. Mrs. Bernice Craddock was appointed chairman of the Cradle Roll. John Craddock was elected Elder. On September 28 a memorial service was held for Carl Kant, who was killed in action. Presbytery met in our church on September 10.

The Board of Deacons was increased from 15 to 20 members. It was also suggested for the first time, that we prepare a Church Directory to be distributed to the member families.

Altogether a very up-beat year.

1947

Mrs. Helen York was elected President of the Women's Society, which now had a membership of 150, divided into 6 circles. The annual Erie Chapel picnic was held in June, when 50 children, all under the age of 10 enjoyed food and fun.

John Craddock resigned as Bible School Superintendent, to take over the position of Benevolence Treasurer. He was succeeded as Superintendent by Robert Hunt.

The budget for the year was $10,485. Since its organization, the church had operated on a fiscal year starting April 1. As of the end of this year, this will be changed to a calendar year.

A most disturbing occurrence surfaced when it was determined that a whispering campaign was questioning the ethical integrity of our pastor. The Session immediately took action to get to the bottom of this situation by interviewing those members who were identified as the ones who were spreading the rumor. These individuals refused to validate the rumors and were, in fact, most uncooperative. Help was solicited from Presbytery, which sent out an investigating commission. This commission returned a report that they could find no substance to the rumors. The effect of this situation was divisive on the

congregation and was devastating on Mr. Miner. It was our hope that all this disturbing talk would just go away. But it didn't—it never does.

Thus 1947 ended on a very unhappy note, with the hope that next year would be better.

1948

To no one's surprise, Rev. Edwin D. Miner submitted his resignation on Feb. 5, to be effective on Feb. 16. Whether Mr. Miner was sinned against or sinned, it must be said that he was a good leader and pastor in the opinion of a great majority of the congregation.

So, with a new Pastoral Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of Elder Leslie Hedrick, we were off to seek a new leader. As is usual, several months were spent in a diligent search for just the right person to fill our pulpit. Our chairman was not the most patient of men, and the committee was not very surprised when called for a special meeting in Westminster Hall. When we assembled there, Leslie introduced us to Rev. Richard A. Dempsey and his wife, Florence, and announced that Mr. Dempsey was going to be our new minister. We talked at some length with the Dempseys and concluded that our chairman had made a good selection. When presented to the congregation, it was unanimously decided to call Mr. Dempsey. Presbytery concurred, and so he was installed on Oct. 27. He proved to be a good choice. He wasn't the greatest preacher in the world but he was an excellent pastor and the people loved him.

Prior to the arrival of the Dempseys, the church purchased a residence on Pleasant Street as a manse. This was financed through the sale of 2% notes in units of $100, to mature on Sept. 1, 1968.

Mrs. Marion Vail was appointed Church Secretary in February, but had to resign in November. Mr. Kenneth Cullen was elected Moderator of the Board of Deacons. Mrs. Orpha Hedrick succeeded Mrs. Bernice Craddock as chairman of the Cradle Roll. Mr. Herman DeBoer resigned as Director of the Church Choir. Mrs. Paul Nelson organized a Junior Choir. John Craddock was appointed by Presbytery to a study of the "Maintenance of the Pastorate Fund".

Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford Pond joined the church, and they are both still with us.

A budget for the year of $11,292 was approved. The Session approved the merger of the Committee for the Young People and the committee for Bible School into a Christian Education Committee. The Women's Society is operating through 8 groups, titled Business & Professional Women, Gleaners, Florence Towne, Mary & Martha, Fidelis, Miner, Onward and Altruist.

It was about this time that "Tad" Graves began to run out of steam, so from now on there will be less of her and more of me in this history. Be generous.

1949

With a new minister at the helm and an enthusiastic congregation this was a year of activity and many changes in the way things were done.

Up until now, each board selected its own membership and congregational approval was just a matter of form. Now an official nominating committee was formed comprised of members of the Session, the Deacons, Women's Society, Trustees, Youth and congregation. The very first nominating committee comprised of Charles N. Bailey, Paul Auvil, Harold J. Murphy, John Craddock, Fred Steinhoff, David Miller and Louise Gilbert.

The Session proposed that we affiliate with the men's group of the Presbyterian General Assembly. Also it was decided to form a church news publication. This weekly publication was titled *Presbyterian Progress.* John Cornelison was the Editor, and the first issue was that of March 30.

An inter-church men's group formed, which met twice a month. The meetings were breakfast meetings and were held on Sunday mornings between the early Catholic Mass and the protestant worship services. The aim of the group was to organize activities that were

ecumenical in nature and were village wide. For instance one event was a spiritual tour of the village. This was at the Christmas season, and each church undertook to create a diorama of a special part of the Christmas story on the grounds of the church. Thus people could walk from church to church and see the entire Christmas story. It seemed to be successful and was continued for a few years. Later it was replaced by presentations more restricted to the particular church.

In April Edna Jean Patch (Burau) joined the church. In September Jean and Leif Olsen and Mr. & Mrs. Donal Olsen joined. Also Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fossum. In December Lois Fokkens joined. These folks are still with us and are some more and some less active in the life of the church. The church membership was now 480.

In May the title to the property at 500 Anthony Street was transferred from the Church Extension Board to the church in consideration of a grant mortgage to the Church Extension Board, with the stipulation that no payment of principal or interest should become due so long as the property is used for church purposes only. Incidentally this indebtedness to the Church Extension Board has long since been paid off.

We granted the Glen Ellyn School Board the use of Westminster Hall by the Forest Glen School children while the addition to their school was being completed.

Mrs. Louise Gilbert was elected President of the Women's Society. There is no longer a Miner Group, but a new group has been formed for the mothers of young children. This is known as the Elizabeth Group and is under the chairmanship of Beverly Kronsnoble. The Society found the need to have an assistant to the President. Such an office was established under the title of Administrative Assistant, and was first held By Mrs. Julia Raffensparger.

Staff meetings were first established in September. These meetings were held monthly and followed much the same pattern as that of our present staff meetings.

Mr. William N. Graves retired as Treasurer after a service of over 23 years. Bill was one of our organizing members and a Charter Member of the church. His dedication to his church and the responsibilities he assumed should assure his name a large place in this history.

1950

Much activity this year was in preparation for our 25th anniversary, due in 1951. An Anniversary Committee was formed consisting of Mrs. Helen York as Chairman, with Mr. James Gilmer, Mrs. John McConnell, Mr. Hugo Lutz, Mr. Ray Cottingham, Mr. Preston, Mrs. E. Stiff, Mrs. John Morrow, Mr. Halsey Harrington, and Mrs. Frank Gulbrandsen.

Mr. William Roupp was elected Church Treasurer, succeeding Mr. Graves. Mr. Orville Dennis was elected Chairman of the Board of Deacons. Mrs. Willard Tucker was appointed Church Secretary in January. She resigned in December and was succeeded by Mrs. Jean Lemeke. Mrs. Orpha Hedrick continued to serve as Clerk of Session Mrs. Louise Gilbert resigned as President of the Women's Society and was succeeded by Mrs. E. Stiff. Mrs. John McConnell was elected to the Session.

Miss Betty Halvorsen joined the church on April 2, as did Mr. and Mrs. Richard Toye. Then in December Mr. Howard Ericksen became a member. All are still with us except Mr. Richard Toye, who passed away some few years ago.

The February meeting of the Session was called off because of a power failure in the village. The Lord's people have to adjust to the vagaries of the world and its problems. The downstairs hall of the church building was officially named Westminster Hall. Much thought was now being given to the crowded condition of the Bible School, and for the first time folks began to consider the possibility of erecting a Christian Education Building.

An interesting item in the Session records reports that the principals of Glenbard High School and of the grade schools have approved our New Curriculum books for use in outside reading. Our church donated a set of these books to the Glen Ellyn Library. Now, isn't that much more sensible than arguing the merits of the separation of Church and State?

1951

Well, we have finally reached our 25th anniversary year. While all the church activities were going on just as on any other year, the Session made mention of the occasion with a one line item in its minutes that a dinner was held to mark the occasion. Fortunately the "Presbyterian Progress" provided us with some detail. Also a brochure was prepared by Giles McCollum, a few copies of which are still in existence.

The celebration covered the entire week of May 19 and started with a dinner in Westminster Hall. The dinner was sponsored by the Women's Society. Local ministers, former ministers of our own church, neighbors, and friends as well as the entire congregation were invited. The dinner was followed by a pageant, written by Mrs. Florence Dempsey and titled *Our Church Goes Marching On.* The pageant portrayed every facet of the life of our church from its organization in 1926 to 1951, and 107 people were involved in the production and the staging. According to *Presbyterian Progress* over 350 persons were served dinner between 5:30 and 7:30.There is no record of the attendance at the pageant but Westminster Hall must have been bursting at the seams. Mrs. B.C. York was general chairman of the affair, and chairmen Stiff, Craddock, and Gilmer were "congratulated for one of finest pieces of organization, planning and execution... ever seen."

The Sunday morning service included a solo by Helen Wagoner (Ward). The sermon was given by Rev. Leslie Whitcomb, the Moderator of the Synod of Illinois and our first pastor. The sermon title was "Great Relationships of Life."

On Wednesday, May 24, the Women's Society held its annual May breakfast, with over 200 present.

At the time of our celebration, the church membership was 534. Of that number there are 21 who are still on the rolls of the church (1994). The membership of the Bible School was 380.

It was a wild and wonderful week, but the real work of the church must go forward.

In March Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morriss joined our membership. Charles has recently died, but Dorothy is still with us. In May Mr. & Mrs. John Holden joined our congregation. John passed away a few years ago, but Nancy is still active. They were both very active in the Chancel Choir, and their talents added much to our music program. In December Mr. & Mrs. Bronte Leicht joined, and are still both with us.

The Christian Education committee started to look for a full or part time Christian Education worker. Mr. J. Clifford Pond was elected to the Board of Deacons, and John Craddock was elected to the Session. The Session decided that all important records should be microfilmed and deposited in a safe deposit vault.

In the spring the residence immediately north of the church came on the market, and it was decided that the existing manse at 689 Pleasant be sold and the residence for sale at 540 N. Main Street be purchased for our manse. The purchase price was $20,000 and it was handled by a payment of $10,000 and a $10,000 mortgage at 4% interest. How times have changed. And how soon that fine manse was to be raised to make room for the big sanctuary to be.

It is said that it is good to be busy. Certainly anyone of the congregation had a chance to be good AND busy in this our 25th year.

1952

Now it was time to put the euphoria of the 25th anniversary behind us and tackle the future.

The microfilming of the church records was completed, and it was decided that these microfilms were to be stored in the vault at McCormick Seminary.

A Memorial Fund of the First Presbyterian Church was established, in combination with the Building Fund Campaign of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The Kreidler House, now the West Manse, was purchased with the help of the Church Extension Board. That Board told us that it is out by $15,500 in our various projects. It suggested that we assume $12,000 of this amount, to be covered by a grant mortgage, which the church agreed to do.

Because of the crowding at the worship services, it was decided to have two services each Sunday, one at 9:30 and one at 11:00 a.m. For the first time, the Session discussed the possibility of combining the Session and the Board of Trustees.

The church membership was 553. Mr. Robert Hunt was appointed Superintendent of the Bible School. Mr. Harold Fossum was elected to the Board of Deacons. Mr. Fred Fliege was appointed Chairman of the

Building Committee. Mr. Choate Johns was elected President of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Luanna Gordon was elected President of the Women's Society. Mr. William Clemenson succeeded Mr. Robert Hunt as Superintendent of the Bible School. Mr. Miles A. Snyder was appointed Director of Music.

In April Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harrington joined the church. Mrs. Harrington passed away some years ago. Tom spent some years working as a volunteer in the church, but in later years has been unable to do so because of failing health.

During this year much committee work was going on to determine the need for, and the possibility of constructing a Christian Education Building.

The idea of a Memorial Fund, combined with a Building Fund for the entire denomination, doesn't seem to be a very practical union. Maybe we'll find out later. And the church keeps on growing.

1953

This year much thought was being given to the need for additional Christian Education space. At the congregational meeting in January a resolution was presented that a committee be created with authority to conduct a solicitation drive with a goal of $125,000 for the purpose of building a structure to provide adequate educational space, and to retire the present bonded debt. The vote resulted in 52 yea's and 40 no's. As there was no clear mandate for the resolution, by order of the Moderator, it was returned to the Session for further study. The Session then proceeded to secure information and to formulate plans that would be more acceptable to the congregation. At a later congregational meeting in April, the majority favored a long range program for church and Bible School expansion that could be built in several stages, and the Building Committee was instructed to plan for a fund raising campaign in the fall. This action was approved by a vote of 76 to 10. At a later meeting the Board of Trustees went on record that the power of the Building Fund Committee is granted by the congregation, and the committee would be answerable to the congregation, through the Session.

Mr. Bronte Leight and Mr. Tom Harrington were elected to the Board of Deacons. Mr. Grant Winchell, Clerk of Session, resigned and was succeeded by Mr. G.W. Rapp. Mr. Howard Eriksen and Mr. Leif Olsen, Jr. were elected to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Choate Johns was elected a commissioner to the General Assembly. Mrs. Carol Williamson was elected President of the Women's Society, and that organization was considering the creation of a new office, of assistant to the President. Also some discussion developed about the matter of rotation of the membership in the groups. This matter surfaced once before, but nothing came of it.

In April the Session voted to recommend that Mr. William Clemenson be taken under care of Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry.

The church membership at mid-year was 639.

I confess to a high degree of curiosity, and I wonder what was behind the reason that the Session quoted this from the Presbyterian Law for Church Officers:

> "The General Assembly takes notice that the exclusive authority of the Session over the worship of the church including not only the music and the use of the church buildings, but also the time and places of preaching the Word, is not sufficiently appreciated by the Church at large... the Assembly enjoins upon the churches, loyal adherence to our Form of Government, providing that the authority of the Session over all matters of worship is paramount, and at the same time recommends that all such questions be treated by the Session with Christian tact and courtesy, in the spirit of love and forbearance."

The Session decided to consider the adoption of the following resolution:

> "We believe that the members of our congregation should consider it desirable to have the funeral services of their loved ones conducted in the sanctuary, because it is altogether fitting and proper that the Church be used for Christian funerals;
>
> "We believe that, as our Sanctuary is dedicated to the worship of God and of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, all funeral services held in the Sanctuary must be based on our Christian faith and consistent with the Directory of the Worship of God in the Constitution of this Church;
>
> "We believe further that all such services must be conducted by the Minister of this Church, or under unusual conditions, any other ordained Protestant minister.
>
> "Be it therefore resolved that the Session, having always held to those beliefs, deems it desirable to record them as the policy of this congregation."
>
> (Adopted March 9, 1953)

That is a lot to report verbatim in this history. In fact it might be questioned whether it all belongs here. But I believe it is good for us to ponder on matters such as this, and perhaps to gain a new respect for the workings of our Session.

Mr. Arthur Hamlin was appointed Superintendent of the Bible School.

Captain Stillwell of the Illinois National Guard wrote, requesting permission to address our congregation for the purpose of recruiting men for the National Guard. Our Session tactfully reminded the good Captain that the church's goal was to recruit men for Christ, but not for the National Guard.

That seems to be a good place to close out our record of the year 1953.

1954

In January the Church Expansion Committee presented the congregation with a building plan to care for the worship and Christian Education needs for the foreseeable future, contemplating a congregation of 1,000. Some time later the Church Expansion Committee was discharged, and a Building Committee was appointed to plan for the construction of a Christian Education Building, to be constructed from Anthony Street north along the western boundary of our property. This committee consisted of Mr. P.J. Nilsen as Chairman, Mr. Fred Fliege as Secretary, Mr. Arthur Traber, Mr. John McConnell, Mr. Leif Olsen Jr., Architect and Rev. Richard A. Dempsey, our pastor. Details of the work of this committee are sadly lacking, and we find no material information in the records of either the Board of Trustees or of the Session. The Annual Report for the year 1954 indicates that the cost of the construction of the Christian Education Building was $138,608. An additional $8,480 was the estimated expense for furnishings, inside and outside together with a garage and a drive for the manse. Ground was broken in the fall and was preceded by the raising of the church house which had served us so well from 1927. Many of us watched its demise with a tear in our eye.

At the January Congregational meeting a motion was presented that the Nominating Committee present a slate of candidates for each Board equal to the number of vacancies to be filled. It had been the policy that the nominees should be equal to the number of vacancies plus two. The purpose for this was to give the congregation a degree of choice, which would not exist if the number of nominees equaled the number of vacancies. The motion engendered some lively discussion, but was defeated.

Miss Dorothy Bartlett resigned as director of the Youth Choir, and Mr. Miles Snyder was discharged as Director of Music. Mr. Donald Gilchrist was then appointed Director of the Chancel and Youth Choirs. Mr. Gilchrist had to resign in December, as he was transferred by his employer to Omaha. Too far to commute. Mr. Arthur Hamlin resigned as Superintendent of the Bible School and was succeeded by Mr. James Patterson.

In the Women's Society, the policy of member rotation within the groups finally took over, and the groups were arbitrarily named for women of the Bible. Thus, Dorcas, Mariam, Rebecca, Hannah, Esther, Naomi, Sarah, Rachel, Phoebe, and Lydia. Mrs. Louise Barnett was elected President of the Women's Society for the year 1955.

The membership was 642 at the first of the year, and 708 at the end of the year. Two suggestions surfaced during the year, which indicate the health—spiritual health, that is—of our congregation. The first suggestion was the need for an assistant minister. The second was the proposal to organize a Daily Nursery School. They seemed to be good suggestions, because it wasn't very long before both of them were implemented.

As the year closed, the basement had been poured, and the walls of our Christian Education Building were peeking over the ground level, taking a first look at the people of God that they were destined to serve.

1955

On January 30, we celebrated the laying of the cornerstone for the Christian Education Building. The Parent–Teacher magazines for each of the following departments were deposited in the cornerstone by these young people:

Kindergarten by Freddie Hansen

Primary by Jimmy Reinhardt

Junior by Ricki Cunningham

Junior High by David Snedeker

Senior High—A New Testament by Virginia Voigt.

Also included in the Cornerstone was a copy of the 1955 budget and the names of the members of the Building Committee.

It was necessary to defer the Annual Congregational Meeting until March because of "technical difficulties". It would be interesting to know what these difficulties were, but we are deprived of that information, so let your imagination run riot.

The Women's Society donated $1,000 to be used for furnishing the kitchenette in the Christian Education Building, and later added another $587.

For the first time, a plan was implemented to set up the entire membership on a zone basis. This was not the last time such a proposal was advanced. We always did a great job of setting up the zones, but the anticipated activity of the zones never seemed to materialize. It might have had greater success if the plan had been tried out in the thirties, before World War II and the advent of women into the work force. That is just an opinion, of which I have many, and should be given no more weight than that.

The Session decided that the church buildings are not for rent, but that they are to be available to all church and church sponsored organizations, depending upon their availability and the type of activity.

Following the laying of the cornerstone, the construction of the Christian Education Building proceeded apace. In August it was reported the building was virtually ready for occupancy. The church records reveal no details of the completion of this project except to state that the dedication service was held at 4 p.m. on September 18 and that the final cost was $140,532.

Mr. George Cairns was appointed Superintendent of the Bible School. Mrs. Laura Coonley was appointed Organist. Mr. Walter Cole was President of the Board of Trustees.

Let us close the year with this intriguing item. It was proposed that the north end of the new Christian Education Building be converted into a garage. It is well that wiser heads prevailed.

1956

Here, with the paint scarcely dry on the walls of the Christian Education Building, we were hearing rumors that we were short of room. The Bible School registration had jumped to 647, and where were we going to put them all? In the Sanctuary, the services were so crowded that serious thought was being given to having three services each Sunday, instead of two as was then customary.

The Zone plan was now in place, but the problem seemed to be a lack of interest on the part of the congregation at large. That may be an unfair statement. It may be that the congregation had so many calls upon its time, that it placed the Zone plan rather far down on its list of priorities. By the month of May it was the feeling that the Zone plan was not workable.

The Session proposed a committee to formulate plans for the future expansion of the church properties. At the same time, discussions were going on with Presbytery as to the possibility of our church taking the lead in organizing a new church, probably somewhere south of Roosevelt Road, with the idea that this new church might absorb enough of our members to relieve our over-crowding. For just this reason, some felt that the idea might so diminish our congregation

that our church and our constituency would suffer irreparably. Presbytery assured us that this would not happen. So we were looking into the possibility of a mission church on the south side with a membership of about 400, and a building costing about $90,000.

The decision was made that our present organ was beyond repair, and would be replaced with a new electronic organ.

A motion was made to instruct the Nominating Committee to present a slate of candidates for the various Boards, only enough to fill the vacancies, and not nominate for the number of vacancies plus two. The congregation defeated this motion by a vote of 53 to 14. The organization of a Daily Nursery School was approved. It would be administered by Mrs. Kautz and Mrs. Williamson, and would be under the supervision of the Christian Education Committee of the Session. Our first Vacation Bible School had an excellent program, serving 139 pupils.

At the recommendation of the Session, Mr. Don Patrick was taken under the care of Presbytery with a view to entering the ministry. A Bulletin Board was installed in the entrance to the Christian Education Building, and was identified as a Memorial to Mr. Fred Clemenson. Mrs. Ruth Hunt was elected President of the Women's Society for the year 1957. Mr. Leif Olsen Jr. was elected President of the Board of Deacons, with Mr. Howard Eriksen as Treasurer. Miss Harriet TenBoer was appointed Director of Christian Education.

On June 10, a reception was held for Della and Howard Moffett, our missionaries in Korea, at which an automobile was presented to them to assist them in their work. This gift was financed by the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago jointly with our own church.

In *Presbyterian Progress* for February 28 we find this item in the news of the Nursery class, "If there are any children besides Jimmy Harper who think the teacher's name is Jesus, will the parents please help inform them correctly."

What a wonderful year.

1957

The most exciting event of the year was on June 18, when Lake Forest College conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on our pastor, Rev. Richard A. Dempsey. The entire congregation shared in the joy of this well deserved honor.

Our membership now stood at 883 and the annual budget was $38,428 for operating expense and $13,000 for benevolence. Mrs. Carol Williamson was appointed Clerk of Session.

The Church Federation of Greater Chicago, in response to the cancellation of the showing of the film, *Martin Luther,* proposed the following petition: "We, the undersigned protest the cancellation of the film *Martin Luther* by WGN-TV, the Chicago Tribune station, under circumstances which are, in effect, sectarian censorship and a violation of freedom of expression. We petition your commission to do all in its power as an agency of the United States Government to correct this injustice and to establish such principles and practices for use of the media of mass communications as will guarantee freedom from such censorship, whether direct or otherwise." The petition to be filed with the Federal Communications Commission for their consideration and action.

Following a discussion for the need for a Parish Caller, Mrs. Sybil Becker was appointed to that new post.

Lengthy discussions were held relative to the possibility of merging the Trustees into the Session. These discussions resulted in the following motion being presented to the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 5, "It shall be the policy of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn to elect the same persons as both Elders and Trustees, their respective terms running concurrently; the effect to be that the two Boards, the Session and Trustees by means of and as a part of regular committees the newly organized board." This motion was defeated. I think that it might well have passed if the majority of the congregation present had a clear understanding of what the Session was trying to accomplish. The immediate result, however, was that the Nominating Committee, assuming that the motion would carry, was not prepared to present a slate as in the past. So the old Boards were authorized to continue until an election could be arranged, which was eventually done.

Much time was spent in contemplating the future of our own church, and the possible establishment of a new mission church, but no decision was arrived at.

The Bible School enrollment had reached 812, with an average attendance of 500. Miss Harriet TenBoer resigned as Director of Christian Education. No effort was made to replace her as the Christian Education organization was under review. Miss Violet Bloomer was named Christian Education Secretary.

Mrs. Lois King was appointed Church Secretary. Mrs. Carol Williamson was Clerk of Session. Mr. Edward Thompson was elected President of the Board of Trustees.

It was a year of great activity conducted in a climate of expansion and change. And we had a pastor that was indeed a Doctor of Divinity.

1958

A new Choir Director, Mr. Tom Norris, took over that musical spot early this year. By now our membership was 947. The Bible School had an enrollment of 720, with an average attendance of 560.

The Chicago Presbytery met at our church on February 11. The dinner for this event was prepared by Mrs. Bernice Pond and her committee. The new Allen Organ had been purchased and was to be installed on March 24. (That actually didn't happen until May 4, but who's counting the days?)

Now about plans for more building. The Session approved in principle the joining together of the present sanctuary and the Christian Education Building to accommodate a maximum membership of 1,200 at an estimated cost of $110,000. In the meantime much thought was being given to the Mission Church idea. Also in the meantime, the Trustees recommended the purchase of the residence to the west of our property on Anthony Street. This was approved by both the Session and the congregation and the purchase was made with a down payment of $5,000 and a mortgage of $19,600 at 5.5%.

A committee was formed to look into the need for an Associate Pastor. The Building Extension Committee was asked to study the additional property that would be needed to build a new sanctuary.

That committee returned a report later in the year suggesting a new sanctuary to accommodate 500 at a cost of about $400,000. Three suggestions were offered for the location of such a structure. The first proposal was to build facing Main Street, and north of, and parallel to the present sanctuary. The second was to raise the residence at 496 Anthony which had just been purchased, and build facing on Anthony Street and running west of the Christian Education Building, and parallel to it. The third idea was a building running north from the south wall of the present sanctuary, with a connection to the Christian Education Building. The committee recommended the first option and that was concurred in by the Session.

The idea of joining the Board of Trustees with the Session was postponed pending further study. A review of the By-laws of the church was proposed. A Pastoral Nominating Committee was formed to begin search for a candidate for the position of Associate Pastor. The Board of Deacons was sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack.

Rev. Richard A. Dempsey tendered his resignation, to become effective on January 15, 1959. A Pastoral Nominating Committee was formed, and the prior Nominating Committee that was charged to seek an Associate Pastor was asked to put their activities on hold. The Congregation gave a farewell tea for the Dempsey family on December 28. At the Session, Elder Hedrick moved the following resolution be recorded in the "minutes of this meeting". This was seconded by Elder Farnam and carried.

> "A resolution upon the occasion of the resignation of Rev. Richard Dempsey. The Session, on behalf of the congregation, wishes to express our sincere thanks to Rev. Dempsey for the excellent guidance and leadership supplied to all the segments of the church during the ten and one half years of his ministry to our congregation.

We are also very grateful for the warmth and friendship that emanated from the other members of the family. We will always remember the devotion of Florence to the Sunday School and the unselfish participation of the children, Donald, Ruth Anne and Mary in the choir and other activities of the church.

We wish for Rev. Dempsey a successful and significant pastorate, and for the other members of the family continued happiness in their association with the North Avenue Presbyterian Church of New Rochelle, New York."

Dr. John B. Thompson was engaged as Interim Pastor for the term of the vacancy.

1959

For the first time, we participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing program. This we continue each year at Easter time. It is one of our many mission programs. The practice of having greeters in the Narthex before each service was initiated this year too.

Our membership was now at 1,016 and the annual budget was $75,320.

In May the congregation agreed to call Rev. Lorenz W. Huenemann as our new pastor, to begin his pastorate on September 20. In the meantime, the pulpit was filled by our interim, Dr. John Thompson. There is an interesting story about Dr. Thompson's introduction into our midst.

I was serving on the Session at the time, and was instructed to take over the introduction of Dr. Thompson. He was offered the use of the manse during his time with us, but he preferred to stay in his own home, and drive out every Sunday. His first week, however, he decided to drive out on Saturday, and get a room at a motel, so he would be all ready for Sunday morning. I gave him directions to my home, and when he arrived my wife and I drove him to the DuWayne Motel, at St. Charles Road and North Avenue, a few miles west of Glen Ellyn.

We arranged that he would drive to our house at a certain hour on Sunday morning, when he would join us for breakfast, and then on to the church. The appointed hour arrived, but no Dr. Thompson. After waiting as long as we dared (we had a church service coming up) I was about to call him at the motel when he called me and informed me that he couldn't get his car started. Remember this was mid January and it was cold. So Bernice packed a basket with fruit and rolls, filled a thermos with coffee, and we started off to rescue the preacher. We installed him in the back of the car with the fruit, rolls and coffee so he could have his breakfast as we drove to the church. The minutes were passing swiftly, and we pulled up to the church as the organist was playing the prelude. I was to be liturgist that morning, so I was able to help Dr. Thompson into his robe, and lead him up to the chancel. He was nervous, and I'm sure that I was too, but he did very well, and was well received. After the service we took him to our home for dinner, which gave us a chance to answer his questions about the town, and more importantly, the church and its people. Then back to the motel to see what could be done about his car. He got in it, but it still refused to start. As he stepped out, he slipped on the icy gravel and fell. He didn't appear to be badly hurt, but he was bleeding from his ear, and the car wouldn't start. Bernice took him back into the motel room and attended to his ear while I started off along North Avenue to see if I could find a mechanic on Sunday afternoon. I finally found one who was willing to help us. So we got the car running and left the good pastor to find his way home. I never expected to see him again, but the next Sunday he was back, as he was every Sunday after that. We should never call an interim, or a pastor, in the middle of winter.

In September Mr. Huenemann started as our Pastor, and the activities began to pick up again. The Session approved in principle a change in the organization of the church boards by which the Board of Trust-

ees would be eliminated and its responsibilities would be reclaimed by the Session.

I, (John Craddock) was appointed Clerk of Session. George Green resigned as Superintendent of the Bible School and was succeeded by Charles Barrow. Robert Axthelm resigned as President of the Board of Trustees. The Session named Mrs. William N. Graves as Church Historian. Mrs. Sybil Becker resigned as Parish Caller. A second effort to get a parish zone plan going was started.

Iron hand rails were installed on the steps in front of the church as a memorial to Mr. Mark Ruisard.

Westminster Day Nursery had an enrollment of 11 boys and no girls. Where are all the girls?

Some dissent arose among the teachers of the Kindergarten class of the Bible School. This matter was referred to the Session. With Solomon-like wisdom that Board settled the matter to everyone's satisfaction. They decided that there would be TWO Kindergarten classes. What a wonderful thing is the Session.

Art Traber lays the cornerstone for the new sanctuary, 1963

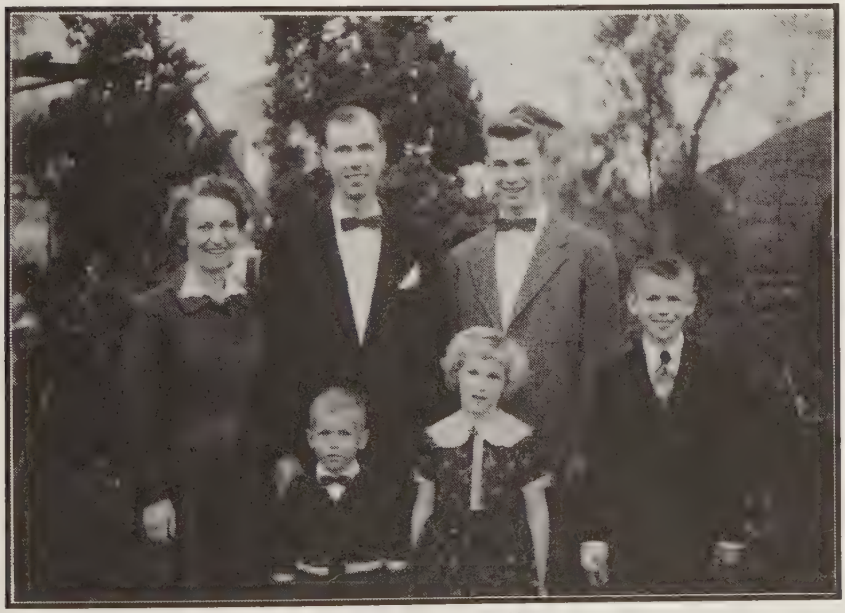
Laying of the chapel cornerstone, 1941

Pictured (L–R):
Mrs. McClure, Pres. W.A.
(Back of) Charles Gordon
Rev. Edwin Miner

Building Committee

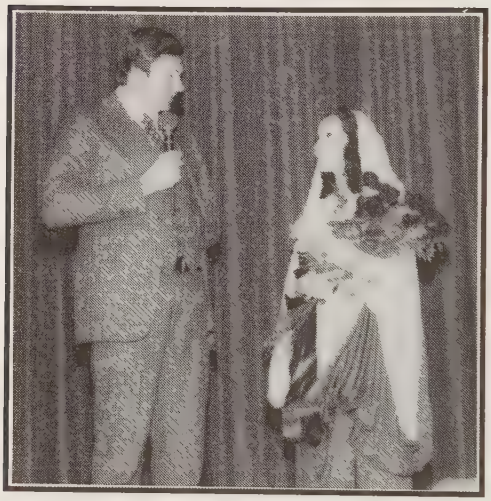
Fossum, Mellott, Pillinger, Hayes

The Florence Towne Group—May 29, 1958
(L–R): Ada Reinhardtsen, Sally Horton,
Jo Fliege, Bernice Pond, Bernice Craddock,
Sophoronia Kirschman, Julia Gerber



The Howard Moffetts,
Our Missionaries in Korea

The Sy Satow Family, Our Missionaries in India



Bill Enright with Carol Lawrence

January 7, 1946

(L–R):
John Craddock, Deacon
Rev. Edwin Miner
Carleton Mead, Deacon

1960

We started the year with a membership of 1,156 and a budget of $81,500. One Sunday in April the Board of Deacons reported that 35 members could not be seated for lack of room, and another 12 persons left for the same reason. The gravity of this situation emphasized the fact that we were not meeting our responsibility to preach the Word to all people. It also stimulated the activity of the Planning & Building Committee. The immediate result was the purchase of the Cottington property to the north of our manse at 540 N. Main Street for $70,000. It was essential to acquire this property as it was in the way of the new sanctuary that was contemplated. The residence was in excellent shape, and the plans were to move it north to Cottage Avenue where it would serve as a manse, as it would be necessary to raise the existing manse at 540 N. Main Street. At the same time the work on the new mission church was going ahead. It was to be located south on Park Boulevard with the Rev. Herbert Eggleston as organizing pastor. It was named "Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church", later to be changed to "Southminster Presbyterian Church". Opening services were held on October 2, at which time several of our Ruling Elders participated in the worship, and served communion pending

the election and ordination of their own officers. Many of our people thought that this new church would create a serious drain on our membership, but actually only 13 families transferred their membership. This is exactly what Presbytery had told us would happen, but we of little faith...

The decision was made that the Westminster Day Nursery which had been operating as an autonomous organization would now become a church responsibility under the supervision of the Christian Education Committee of the Session.

The Fire Department, at our request, made a survey of our buildings. They recommended that a fire alarm system be installed in the Christian Education Building. It would be several years and a new pastor, and a strong nudge from the State Fire Marshall, before that recommendation was implemented.

In March, the Pastoral Nominating Committee presented Rev. Stanley O'Laughlin as candidate for the position of Assistant Pastor. The Session agreed with the recommendation, and Mr. O'Laughlin was called.

In July, Alfred L. Perkins, a member of our congregation was taken under the care of the Session, and was recommended to Presbytery as a candidate for Christian ministry.

After several months of work by a special committee, a new set of By-laws was presented to, and ratified by the congregation. In May we learned the Under Shepard Plan (zone plan) was being organized. Nothing more was heard of the plan, at least this year, but we seem to have become interested in a new card system that would record all that we would ever want to know of every member. In June a Men's Association was organized with a dinner and Mr. William Partain was elected President.

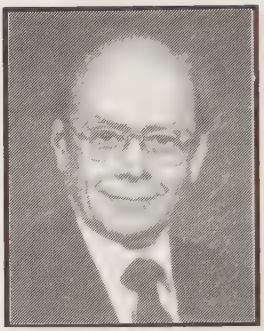
William Kramer was elected President of the Board of Deacons. Arthur Rusk was elected President of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. D.N.

Barnett was appointed Parish Caller. Richard Whitecotton was appointed organist for the summer months.

For some months now, in fact it would be more accurate to say "years", the Christian Education Committee had been asking that a divider be placed in the Nursery Room to enable it to be used for two classes instead of only one. Every month it was discussed, but nothing happened. That is until October of this year, when the Christian Education Committee informed the Trustees that the divider was no longer needed, as another space had been found to accommodate the roomless class. Of course, we all know that the best way to treat problems is just to give them time to go away all by themselves.

Assistant and

Stanley O'Loughlin
1960–62



Walter Scott
1963–68

Charles Alcorn III
1970–74

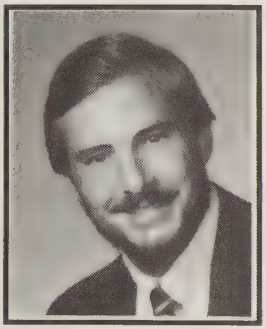
Tom Chapin (no picture available)
1965–68

Gary Sattler
1975–79

A. Wayne Benson
1977–84

George M. Ekstrom
1979–85

Associate Pastors

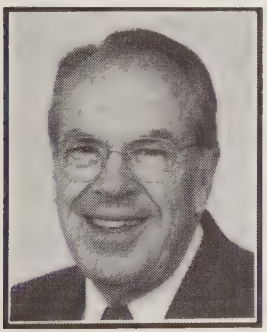


Ames Broen
1980–82

John Crosby
1982–87

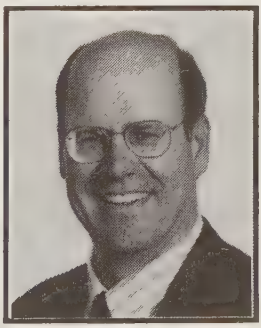
Nancy Becker
1984–87

Malcolm Davis (no picture available)
1991–93



John Huffman
1987–

Beth Appel
1988–95



John Curphey
1995–

1961

What a busy year this was. In addition to all our regular activities we were faced with the building of a bigger sanctuary. We were conducting three services every Sunday, and on two of these services had an overflow congregation in Westminster Hall. It was time to build once more.

A loan was negotiated from the Northern Trust Company in the amount of $65,000 @ 5.5%. The purpose of this loan was to finance the purchase of the Cottington property at 548 Main Street. The plan was to construct a new foundation for this building on the northwest corner of our property, that is on Cottage Avenue; then to move the building at 548 Main Street and set it down carefully on the newly constructed foundation. This feat was accomplished without losing a single brick, and thus we had our new North Manse. The cost of purchasing the property, constructing the new foundation and moving the house was $90,438. The congregation approved the construction of the new sanctuary at a cost of $350,000. Olsen & Urbain were again commissioned as architects. A Building Fund Committee under the co-chairmanship of Vernon Clark and Thomas Barker was formed.

An altar was constructed and donated by Dwight Williamson. It

was felt that this was needed for Westminster Hall with overflow congregations using this facility on an average of two out of every three worship services every Sunday.

Our membership this year was 1,190 and the annual budget was $91,081. The Undershepherd plan was in the throes of getting organized. Roger Young set up the zone boundaries and a booklet was being prepared for the eventual use of the Undershepherds. In June the Undershepherd plan was launched at a meeting of the congregation in Westminster Hall. A Memorial Fund Savings Account was established with an opening balance of $1,102.38.

To cover the need for physical fitness, a basketball team was organized under the direction of David Thomas, and became a part of the YMCA inter-church league.

Mrs. Ruth Schramm was appointed Financial Secretary. Mr. Paul W. Palmquist was elected President of the Corporation, Mr. David Lightfoot, President of the Board of Deacons, Mr. Edward A. Doty, Clerk of Session, Mrs. Esther Steele was named assistant to the Church Secretary. Dr. Gustav Rapp was elected Scoutmaster of Troop 46, B.S.A. Mrs. Laura Coonley continued as Organist. John Craddock was reappointed to Presbytery's Department of Ministerial Relations, and Leslie Hedrick and Leif Olsen were named to the Department of Christian Education. Thomas Norris resigned as Choir Director in October, and was replaced by Ralph Lane. Mrs. Barrett resigned as Parish Caller and was succeeded by Mrs. Marilyn Falls, Douglass Pillinger represented our church on the General Assembly's study of the nature of the ministry. Mr. Ziegler was named Superintendent of the Bible School.

And then there was the occasion when John Holden, reported on his attendance at a Presbytery meeting. He mentioned mainly the dinner which was served, which was chicken and very good. However, salt was missing, and the only two shakers available did not contain Morton's, as it neither rained nor poured.

One irritating problem that tested the patience of Building & Grounds was the tendency to experience a flood in Westminster Hall and the Christian Education Building whenever we suffered from a heavy dew. This was due to the inadequacy of the storm sewers serving our location. In desperation, the problem was overcome when we blocked off the drains at the two affected spots.

1962

We started this year with a membership of 1,231 and a budget of $99,157.

Much of our attention was focused on the anticipated new Sanctuary. Mr. Donal Olsen was engaged as Architect; and the congregation had adopted the plans for the new building at a cost of $270,000. The North Manse had already been purchased and moved at an overall cost of $124,440. Ground breaking occurred in June. A special Committee was formed to decide on whether we should have an electronic organ or a pipe organ. In the meantime, the cross to be hung in the chancel was donated by the Olsen family, and the pulpit by the Board of Deacons.

Mr. William Clemenson was ordained at Hanover, Indiana on January 21 and Mr. William Hunt was ordained and installed at Milan, Ohio on January 28. Mr. Rims Barber was ordained at Clinton, Iowa on September 23. These three young men were all sons of the congregation.

There were many personnel changes this year. Orville Dennis was elected President of the Corporation, John Craddock as Church Treasurer. The Cradle Roll was reactivated under Mrs. Richard Keeler. Mrs. Laura Coonley resigned as Church Organist. Mr. Ziegler resigned as

Bible School Superintendent and was succeeded by William Turner. Mrs. William N. Graves resigned as Church Historian. Miss Violet Bloomer resigned as Church Secretary and was succeeded by Mrs. Dorothy Rittenhouse. Mr. A.J. Weinbauer resigned as Custodian.

Douglass Pillinger was nominated Commissioner to the General Assembly, meeting in Des Moines, Iowa in May, 1963. Rev. Stanley O'Loughlin resigned as Assistant Pastor, effective September 30 and in December Rev. Walter C. Scott was called as Associate Pastor.

The Undershepherd program was now functioning. Pastor Huenemann continued to give us excellent messages from the pulpit, well laced from time to time with the comments of theologian Karl Barth.

A Junior High work shop was established under the direction of Vernon Brown. Ruth Olsen was appointed Church Organist.

That special committee to decide on the organ declared their choice was a unified pipe organ. The benefit of the unified organ was that it costs less, and also it could be added to in the future. The congregation thought that was a good decision, and so they agreed. It was so great to have a real pipe organ through which we could enjoy the true beauty of the Lord's music.

1963

The year was born in an atmosphere of anticipation. This was the year that we would occupy our new sanctuary. Our membership was at 1,225. The pipe organ was ordered at a cost of $16,552.

Our basketball team received an award for placing second in the YMCA Inter-Church League. The first Church Directory was about ready for distribution, thanks to the leadership of Wallace Natchke. A paper published by the Junior High Class of the Vacation Bible School won recognition from the National Board of Christian Education. The Choir Director, Mr. Ralph Lane, had a disagreement with the Session, and his resignation was accepted. The congregation approved some minor changes in the by-laws.

The first service in the new Sanctuary was held on June 9. On that occasion the communicants class was received into membership, and communion was served. September 15 was Homecoming Sunday and the services were shared in by our former pastors, Revs. Lawrence Schwarz, Richard Dempsey, and Stanley O'Loughlin. September 20 was the Dedication Dinner which was sponsored by the Board of Deacons, and was held in the new church hall, which had just been officially named "John Knox Hall". On this occasion the sons of the

congregation who had entered the ministry were our guests. These guests were Revs. William Clemenson, William Hunt, and Rims Barber.

September 22 was Dedication Sunday. When a formal dedication ceremony was held. Dr. Donald Zimmerman, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Chicago, preached the sermon. In the afternoon a community service of thanksgiving brought greetings from Dr. John Bellingham, Moderator of Chicago Presbytery; Dr. Andrew Kurth, Executive of the Synod of Illinois, and Dr. Charles Hoskinson, Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, representing the churches of the village. The address was given by Dr. Joseph Haroutunian, Professor of Theology at the University of Chicago. The following memorial gifts were received and dedicated:

Chancel Cross in memory of Leif E. Olsen.
Memorial planting in memory of Cora M. Beatty.
Communion Table from the youth of the church.
Clergy chair in memory of Benjamin B. Foster and
Jane Foster Gavin.
Baptismal Font in memory of Fred C. Fliege.
Pulpit Bible, Collection Plate Shelf and Narthex
Register in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Earl P. Benson.
Pulpit from the Board of Deacons
Communion Service from the Session
Paraments from Mr. & Mrs. Kenly Day.
Balcony Pew in memory of Mr. & Mrs. W.R.
Dunkelberg and Mr. & Mrs. William Pickering.
Hymnals from children of the church school.
Organ Fund in memory of John Henry Herr.
in memory of of Helen K. Muzzy.
in memory of Sophronia Kirchman.

Now to get back to every days affairs: The Session decided that when election of officers was held the number of nominees shoud be

equal to, and not exceed, the number of vacancies to be filled. Mr. A.W. Turner as Superintendent of the Bible School reported that the membership of the school was now 579. The Undershepherds were now in action, and their first activity was calling on all member families and delivering a copy of the new Church Directory. Following the resignation of Mr. A.W. Turner as Superintendent of the Bible School, he was succeeded by Mr. Daniel P. Krogh. The budget for this year was $99,157.

Mr. Harry Strong was taken under care of Session and Presbytery as a candidate for Christian ministry.

Eugene Jackels was elected Treasurer of the church. Thomas Riha was elected President of the Corporation. Roger Young was appointed delegate to the Synod of Illinois. Richard Hill was elected to Presbytery's Department of Church & Society. Douglass Pillinger was elected alternate delegate to the General Assembly. Daniel Ziegler was employed as Custodian. Alice Bingaman was elected President of the Choir. Richard Whitecotton was appointed Minister of Music. Virginia Scatterday was named Superintendent of Child Care.

Our new sanctuary was completed at a cost of $310,798.60.

On November 25 at 2 p.m. a memorial service was held in the sanctuary for President of the United States, John F. Kennedy.

1964

Now that the sanctuary was complete, Dr. Huenemann challenged us to make this a year of evangelism. "Operation Outreach" was the clarion call for action. Our membership was 1,281 and the annual budget was $98,863.

In April the church organ was dedicated. The effectiveness of the Undershepherd program was under scrutiny by the Session. And then there was the finances. They had been slipping. Either that, or we had been spending more. So the Stewardship Committee called for an immediate drive for additional funds and September was to be the "Month of Sacrifices". Somehow, by the grace of God we always managed to struggle through. The emphasis was on "struggle".

Our church was host to the older girls conference of Presbytery for three days in April, with 150 young ladies in attendance. In November a fraternal meeting of our Session was held with that of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church, from the south side of Chicago.

In February the Women's Society held a very special luncheon meeting at which the early presidents of the Society were honored by gifts in their name to various mission causes. Ruth Montgomery, the first president, and Bernice Morrow, the second president, were each

honored by a gift of $50 to the Christian Education Board. Jean Kopelsky and Lee Kranz were each honored by a gift of $50 to the National Board of Missions. Finally, Esther Steinhoff, who was so active in the building of the first sanctuary, was honored by a gift of $50 to the Board of Ecumenical Missions.

In July the Session passed the following resolution: "In the light of the recent passage of the Civil Rights Bill by Congress and in view of the potentially explosive situation now existing in the country, the committee recommends that the Session reaffirm its support of the Declaration on Human Rights which it adopted in August 1963, and that the congregation be notified of the position which the Session takes in reaffirming the Declaration", which follows:

DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

" We will give prayerful thought to the implications of the Christian faith in relation to the total problem of our attitude toward persons of other races, creeds, national origins or different economic conditions. We acknowledge that we are not without prejudice of some degree, and we shall try to learn to accept all men as brothers, as we ourselves have been accepted by our Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ. Thus far we have been shielded from many of the problems in race relations with which others have been confronted. When we are called upon to face them, we will strive to be Christian in whatever dealings we do have with those who happen to be different from ourselves.

"We disavow the so-called 'Caucasian only' clause in property deeds as an attempt (though having no legal validity) to discriminate in the sale and purchase of real estate.

> "Should a person or a family of a different race, creed, national origin or economic station move into our neighborhood, we will resist the temptation to move away because of this development. Rather, we will, in appropriate fashion make the newcomers feel that they are a part of our neighborhood and help them to take a pride in their own property and the state of the entire area."

Presbytery accepted our invitation to meet at our church in June 1965. This year our basketball team won the West Division Championship of the Inter-Church League.

Douglas Pillinger was elected to Presbytery's Department of Church & Society. Roger Young was President of the Corporation. John Craddock was appointed Clerk of Session, and in May attended General Assembly as a delegate. Leif Olsen was elected Chairman of Presbytery's Department of Campus Christian Life.

Despite the fact that Rev. Walter Scott joined our staff last year, this history made little mention of it. We were so excited about that big new sanctuary. But he is with us and is busy and effective and has developed a fine rapport with Dr. Huenemann.

Letters were received from the Village President and the Governor of the State asking that we participate in the ringing of bells on July 4. How could we? We don't have a bell. Not only that but there is a crack in the brick work of the tower. Where's the architect???

1965

We started the year with a membership of 1,279 and a budget of $103,184. The Bible School enrollment was 698. We shared the joy of our friends of Southminster Presbyterian Church as they dedicated their new sanctuary. We had worked for the establishment of that church, and will always feel a special love for its people.

Project Renewal became a regular annual outreach program. Our people drove in to Chicago and brought out to Glen Ellyn from 20 to 50 shut-ins for a day of food, fellowship and worship. At the end of the day, our guests were transported back to their homes. Many of these people were physically handicapped, some in wheelchairs, and our Boy Scouts did a wonderful job in helping with them. Project Renewal is a program that involves churches of many denominations, and our church plays host always on the first Saturday in June of each year.

Finances were again at the forefront of our concerns. At a congregational meeting it was announced that we faced a shortage of income of $9,000. Those members present immediately pledged $6,198 and authorized the corporation to borrow enough to cover our immediate needs.

A Youth Academy was organized under the care of the Christian Education Committee of the Session. This was designed to serve those in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades as well as Senior High School.

Rev. L.W. Huenemann was named Chairman of Presbytery's Department of Christian Education.

In November Rev. Thomas Chapin was called as Assistant Pastor for adult education.

William Kramer was elected President of the Corporation. Clair Felker was named Church Treasurer. Dorothy Rittenhouse resigned as church secretary, and was succeeded by Lee Shallcross.

An invitation was received from Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church to meet with them on March 5. I know we met together, because I was there, but our church records make no mention of this event. What a choir they had!

1966

The General Assembly instituted a $50 Million Fund. Our suggested allotment to this fund was $30,080. Our decision was not to accept this allotment, but to adopt an open ended goal. Our final commitment was $17,078 which was distributed $7,817 each to Monmouth College and Boys High School, Basrah, Iraq and $1,500 to Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn.

The rapid expansion of the population of the village had its effect on our membership, even so, our membership didn't grow as it might, because of the number of people moving away. Our membership at the first of the year was the same as last year, 1,279, despite the number of "ins" and "outs" within the year. Our Bible School membership was 673. The budget for the year was $115,894.

The Session met with the Session of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church to study the Confession of 1967.

The Men's Association was dissolved for lack of interest.

Harry Kemmer was appointed Clerk of Session. Wayne Weichmann was appointed Superintendent of the Bible School, to succeed Daniel Krogh, retired. Mrs. Annie Conklin was named Superintendent of the Cradle Roll. Mrs. Marilyn Falls resigned as Parish Caller. Leif Olsen

was elected a Commissioner to the General Assembly to be held in Boston.

You may (or may not) have noticed that this record mentions the "Bible School" rather than "Sunday School" or "Church School". In later years at least the most frequent title is Sunday School. I have used Bible School as that is the title approved by Session very early in our history, and as the Session has never changed it, on the records it is still "Bible School". I trust that this is not too confusing.

1967

In researching the events of the years there are a few things that have impressed me. One is the large number of new members that have joined our congregation, and how they are almost, but not quite equal to, the number who have transferred to other towns and states. If we could just keep them all! Would that be good for us, or are we better off as we are? Another item is how our Pastor can fulfill his responsibilities with us and at the same time take on so many of the requests he receives to preach and teach. But he appears to accomplish both with great success.

This year we started with a membership of 1,318 and a budget of $122,502. The Bible School reports a membership of 454, which is a substantial decrease over last year.

You may have noticed that the Deacons are fulfilling their biblical chores instead of being ushers and greeters as in the early days of our church. We learn that this year they have undertaken a tutoring program with the young people of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church in Chicago. They have also extended very basic aid to a family of Cuban refugees.

The Session has been exploring having the various standing committees submit quarterly reports instead of monthly reports as at present. This was a temporary experiment that, fortunately, went no further. Such a policy would have made the writing of this history practically impossible. The Memorial Gifts Committee was dissolved, and its duties taken over by the Long Range Planning Committee. The Westminster Day Nursery, at present under the Christian Education Committee is now returned to its former status as an independent body.

The Session records show the following record:

A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

> The Session records with sorrow the death of Elder Ralph E. Bemister on January 7, 1967. Elder Bemister served faithfully and cheerfully on the Session for three years and would have completed his term on January 8. We are thankful to Almighty God for Elder Bemister's spirit of concern and his willingness to work, even when his physical health was a severe handicap. Aside from his work on the Session, we remember with gratitude the many hours he devoted to laying tile on the floor of Westminster Hall, and the numerous church dinners at which he served as chef. Only our joy in his eternal peace in the presence of his Savior overshadows our sorrow at the loss of a brother, a good friend, and a faithful witness to Jesus Christ. The Session expresses its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Bemister and the three children.

As was usual, our greatest temporal concern was a shortage of funds. In April a special congregational meeting was held to address this problem. The fear was that by the end of the year we would be faced with a deficit of $14,000. It was decided to conduct a "13th

Month" campaign, and while the meeting was still going on, pledges amounting to $6,000 were received.

Conscious of our civic responsibilities, we approved the request of the County Board of Election Commissioners that our sanctuary narthex be available as a polling place. This is still so.

Harry Strong was ordained at our church on June 4, and entered the ministry at the Griswold, Iowa Presbyterian Church. Alfred Perkins was ordained at the Federated Church of Sandwich, Illinois, where he started his ministry.

Hugh Williamson was appointed Church Treasurer. Paul Palmquist was elected President of the Corporation.

Once again there are suggestions that changes in the by-laws should be considered. The frequent need for such changes is, to me, an indication of a healthy and alert management.

1968

Big things happened this year. The biggest was the resignation of our pastors. Dr. Huenemann asked to be terminated on Aug. 31. Rev. Walter Scott resigned effective Sept. 15. Rev. Tom Chapin also resigned in September. That really gave us something to think about. But life goes on, even in a church. Especially in a church.

Our membership was at 1,362 with a Bible School enrollment of 576. Our budget was at $112,690. Rev. Scott reported that our Senior High young people were deeply involved with the young people of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Session decided that the Undershepherd program should be dissolved in favor of some other means of keeping in touch with our members. In June a special dinner was held in honor of Howard and Della Moffett, at which a gift of money was presented to them, prior to their return to Korea.

As soon as Dr. Huenemann left, a Pastoral Nominating Committee was formed. I was elected chairman of this committee. Before the committee got down to the business of actively seeking a new leader, we had the opportunity to hear our new stated supply several times. The Session had authorized Elder Pillinger to find a stated supply to fill our pulpit until a new pastor was called. He got in touch with

Presbytery, who told him about a young pastor who had just returned from earning his Ph.D. at Edinburgh University, and was at loose ends. This was William G. Enright, who, after being interviewed by Elder Pillinger, agreed to accept the post of Stated Supply. Dr. Enright made an immediate and dramatic impact on the congregation, both with his preaching and his warm and friendly personality. It was with this background that our Pastoral Nominating Committee met. I remember well that first meeting of the committee. After being called to order, Bob Falls said: "We can make this short. I think we should call Dr. Enright." This comment was followed by a chorus of "Amens". The rest of the meeting was devoted to persuading the members that we couldn't do that. Why? Because it was contrary to Presbyterian law. A Stated Supply could not be called to the church he was serving or had served until a period of at least 6 months had transpired. And so with several unhappy faces we attacked our job in conformance with our law. In the months that followed, over 50 dossiers were received from General Assembly, screened and in a few cases, followed up with a visit. But they didn't have much of a chance when compared to the known quality of Bill Enright. Presbytery was well aware of what we wanted to do and kept a wary eye on our activities. And then came the General Assembly, at which the law which was bothering us was modified. This enabled a church to call a Stated Supply, provided the call from the church committee was unanimous and that Presbytery concurred by a three-fourths majority.

Wonderful, but we didn't know what General Assembly had done. No one told us. But our former pastor, Lorenz Huenemann, knew it, and he telephoned Douglass Pillinger and told him. Then Douglass told me. We then requested a meeting with the Ministerial Relations Committee. Our entire committee went to Chicago for that meeting. After a lengthy but friendly debate, we were given permission to speak to Dr. Enright to determine if he would be interested in a call from our

church. He said, "Yes". Any of you who have served on a Pastoral Nominating Committee will appreciate what we went through; but it was worth it.

Eugene Hoffman was appointed Clerk of Session. Don Johansen was named Superintendent of the Bible School, succeeding Wayne Weichmann. Walter Barrett was recommended to the care of Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry. Richard Whitecotton resigned as Director of Music and Warren Goodwin was appointed Choir Director. Then Don Johansen resigned as Superintendent of the Bible School.

In keeping with our ecumenical stance, on Jan. 19 a Bar Mitzvah ceremony was held in the Chapel for Daniel Adam Keharon.

What a year.

1969

During the vacancy in our pulpit, the Presbytery named Dr. Kausler to serve as Moderator of the Session and of the congregation. This task he performed with wisdom and tact. We started the year with a membership of 1,391 and a budget of $111,790. The Bible School enrollment was 576. Our church was now listed as a unit in Mission Council 6. There is no clear statement as to what this means. Apparently it was a breakdown of the churches in Presbytery, in order to make management less complicated.

The Undershepherd program is being revitalized. Jean Olsen was appointed chairman of Presbytery's committee to study the question of a Chaplaincy for the College of DuPage.

In April a call was offered to Dr. William G. Enright, which was accepted. The Moderator reminded us that, because of its special nature, it would require a majority of at least ¾ in Presbytery in order to validate the call. This was no problem, and once again we had our minister. Dr. Enright was installed on June 1. On that occasion, a telegram was received from the New Battle Church in Edinburgh, where Dr. Enright had been Interim Pastor. The telegram read: "Kirk Session

of New Battle send friendly greetings and good wishes on induction of your new minister."

The search for an Associate Pastor was started immediately by a committee chaired by James Brown. In October the committee presented their candidate, Rev. Charles Edger Alcorn III, to start Dec. 1, 1969. The balloting resulted in 173 yes votes and 0 no votes. That doesn't happen on a first vote very often. So, welcome Charley and Sandra.

Here and there throughout the records, the "76'ers" are mentioned. There is no record as to what they are or what they do.

In June, four letters of concern were received about a seminar which was held in John Knox Hall. The seminar was under the auspices of our Adult Education Class, and was conducted by three students and a faculty member from McCormick Theological Seminary, with a view to sharing their thoughts and Campus experiences as students of the Seminary. This in relation to a study of Campus Crisis 1969. This was followed by much communication between the church and the seminary, communication that might have been of more value before, rather than after the fact. This was surely an indication of the care and concern our congregation has for the integrity of our faith and how it is represented.

Jackson O'Connell was elected President of the Corporation. Daniel Krogh and Evelyn Bowman were listed as Parish Callers. Hugh Williamson resigned as Church Treasurer. Richard Whitecotton was back with us as Minister of Music, with William Shepard as Organist. Frank Miles, Superintendent of the Bible School, resigned and was succeeded by William Kramer.

Westminster Hall was designated, a recreation and meeting facility for High School and College youth, and considerable work was put into making the hall ready for its new use.

1970

There were no exciting happenings this year. There were no building plans on the table, nor were there any fund drives calling for our attention and support. The first of many officer's retreats was held at George Williams College on beautiful Lake Geneva.

Our membership was 1,402 and our budget was at $140,000.

A change in the by-laws was proposed. Our policy on election of officers had been that the number of nominees would be equal to the number of vacancies plus two, in order to give the congregation a degree of choice. The proposed change was that the number of nominees should be equal to the number of vacancies. (No plus two) This change was approved by a majority of 2 votes.

Rev. Charles Alcorn entered into his duties as Associate on March 3 and the results of his leadership were soon apparent. The activities of the Board of Deacons came under review. A "Thursday Supper" program was established. This program brought from 150 to 200 young people to our church every Thursday evening. Don McClelland was employed as Youth Director.

Presbyterian Progress was discontinued and was replaced by a monthly publication named *First Press.* Our first pictorial directory

was approved. A "Wednesday Community" program was approved. Its purpose was to organize small groups that would meet with the pastors, where they could review their faith in a climate of fellowship. This was the beginning of our present Covenant Groups. On Nov. 29 Our Pastor and choir travelled to the Warren Boulevard Presbyterian Church to join in their worship, then they returned our visit on Dec. 13.

In May the General Assembly met in Chicago which called for many willing hands to help in this event, by serving communion, ushering, moving chairs and some heavy things, and by just attending.

Dr. Enright was named Chairman of Synod's Chaplain & Service Personnel Committee. A new staff position was established, that of Administrator, to which John Craddock was appointed.

There must have been some merit to the old way of electing officers if the change could pass by only 2 votes. *(Editor's comment.)*

1971

The membership and the budget keep on growing. Now we had a membership of 1,435 and a budget of $155,618. The Bible School enrollment was 658.

The search for an assistant minister was begun. We were looking for an older person who would concentrate his or her activities on pastoral work, with emphasis on shut-ins and the elderly. Some negotiations were conducted with the boards of Glenbard High School and Elementary School District #41 with a view to the schools using the lower floor classrooms in the Christian Education Building during weekdays. I don't believe that anything came of these discussions.

Marjorie Natchke was engaged as bookkeeper, and later was promoted to Assistant Administrator, where she continues to serve.
Gary Sattler was employed as Youth Director. He directed a summer college program, in which five churches participated.

The reorganization of the Board of Deacons was completed. 16 of our members completed the first phase of the Bethel Bible series.

Christopher Wilson, who had just transferred his membership to our church, was referred to Presbytery to be taken under the care of that body during Mr. Wilson's divinity studies at Yale University.

Gene Morgenstern, a Commissioner to the General Assembly at Rochester, New York, reported to the Session on the affairs of the Assembly. He was appointed to the Standing Committee of the Council of Theological Education.

Ina Wissmiller was elected a Commissioner to the Synod of Illinois at Elmhurst. She was appointed Chairman of the Stewardship and Interpretation Committee.

The Nominating committee presented Rev. George Magna Ekstrom as candidate for assistant minister. Mr. Ekstrom was elected and was duly installed on Sept. 20.

A special fund of $12,000 was raised for the benefit of Dr. Moffett's Hospital complex at Taegu, Korea.

Irving West was elected President of the Board of Deacons. Hugh Williamson was elected President of the Corporation. Ina Wissmiller was appointed Clerk of Session. Mrs. Pauline Kennel was appointed Choir Director, Richard Whitecotton having resigned again. Dorothy Fergus was elected President of the Women's Association. Did the Women's Society change its name? Without telling me?

1972

We started the year with a membership of 1,452 and a budget of $161,650. The Bible School enrollment was at 530.

Our church participated in a national and ecumenical program titled "Key 73". This was an inter-denominational effort to bring the gospel to every home in America. A special committee was formed to implement our work on this project, which was chaired by John LeRoy.

In the spring we had rain. A lot of rain. So much rain that the sub-basement in the Christian Education Building was filled and there was several inches of water through the hall and classrooms in the lower floor. All of our electrical and telephone services were ruined, and had to be replaced. The Deacon's closet in the sub-basement, which was filled with clothing to go to the neighborhood houses in Chicago, had to be emptied and disposed of. All of the floor tiling in the lower floor had to be replaced. We were able to get a grant of $4,700 from the Small Business Administration which enabled us to repair the damage. When will we have adequate storm sewers?

The publication of the monthly *First Press* was stopped and its budget transferred to General Mission. How are we going to know what's going on without *First Press?*

A pilot parish program is now ready to be put into practice.

The Ritual of Friendship was established. In case you are not familiar with this title, the Ritual of Friendship is that folder to be found at the end of each pew, nearest the center aisle, on which we indicate our presence at worship.

The church received 200 New English Bibles as a memorial to Kathryn Goodridge.

The Long Range Planning committee outlined to the Session a unification plan for the three separate church buildings.

Four Bethel Bible classes are to start in November.

Cleveland Holmes has been appointed to give and receive information relative to the Joint Commission on the union of the UPUSA and PCUS.

Gary Sattler had been conducting a street ministry in Glen Ellyn. This was supported by several of the local churches, including ours. Now the Glen Ellyn Park District and the YMCA are interested in becoming involved. It had become a most successful program under Sattler's sensitive leadership.

The Synod system was revised. We had always been a part of the Illinois Synod, which included all Presbyterian churches in the state. The Synod was now expanded to cover the Presbyterian churches in Illinois and Indiana. It is called the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

Rev. George Ekstrom was appointed Commissioner to the Synod meeting in Decatur, Il. Three of our members were appointed to the Board of the Synod; Leif Olsen to the Cabinet, David Lightfoot to Stewardship, and Douglass Pillinger to the Judicial Committee.

Presbytery erased the name of Thomas T. Chapin from the roll of ministers, which terminated his service as Assistant Pastor in our church. Dr. Enright was elected a Commissioner to the General Assembly in Denver. William Chambers was elected President of the Corporation. Lee Shallcross resigned as Church Secretary. She was

succeeded by Jan Brockmann as Church Secretary and Janet Bosworth as Administrator's Secretary. Ina Wissmiller was appointed Clerk of Session.

A 50th Anniversary Committee was formed. Eugene W. Morgenstern was named Chairman, with 24 additional members. This committee was given the job of planning an appropriate program to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 1976. Stick around—this is going to be exciting.

1973

We were really beginning to get excited about the advent of our 50th anniversary. The committee had been formed to plan the activities. Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Morgenstern were chairpersons. The others on the committee were Mr. & Mrs. John Allen, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Baker, Mr. & Mrs. George Cairns, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Day, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Hayes, Mr. & Mrs. David Lightfoot, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Luttrell, Mr. & Mrs. James Nagle, Mr. & Mrs. Leif Olsen, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Riha, Mr. & Mrs. John Scatterday, Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Williamson. Ex-Officio Members: Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gulbrandsen, Dr. & Mrs. John Morrow, Mrs. Charles Alcorn, and Rev. George Ekstrom. Official Staff Liaison: Dr.William Enright and Mr. John Craddock.

The congregation were given opportunities to finance the program through "Church Birthday" envelopes placed in the pews in June, 1973, May, 1974 and May, 1975. The preliminary suggestions for the occasion were; to pay off the existing mortgage; to provide for a perpetual mission (Living) fund; or, to establish a family growth center. The financial goal was to raise $50,000 over three years.

The Westminster Day Nursery came back under the wing of the Christian Education Committee and thus became an official part of

the church outreach program. Nancy Edison was named Director. We started the year with a membership of 1,488 and a budget of $177,450. We became sister church to Warren Central Church in Chicago under the Key 73 program. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes was organized at Glenbard West High School.

By order of the Session, smoking was prohibited in the Chapel, both upstairs and downstairs, and also on the stage of John Knox Hall. In March our membership went over the 1,500 mark for the first time. The Chapel was equipped with worship books in memory of Helen Strong. John Scatterday presented the church with a plaque, bearing the names of the 54 Eagle Scouts from Troop 46.

Dorothy Heideman was Clerk of Session. Gene Morgenstern was Superintendent of the Bible School. Elaine Montgomery was President of the Women's Association. Why isn't it Women's Society any more?

1974

The busiest committee this year was the 50th Anniversary Committee. The plans for 1976 were taking shape. The decision was made that a fund would be raised to finance a "Family Growth Center." This was later titled "Pastoral Counseling Center". The Session approved this description of the fund:

> PURPOSE: To mark the 50th anniversary of our congregation by establishing a perpetual fund to support various mission needs, through the use of the earnings of the fund, leaving the principal intact as the Living Mission Fund.
>
> HOW?: The fund will be established through congregation participation in a three year pledge campaign. This campaign to be introduced to the congregation on Easter Sunday, 1974. The fund may also be augmented by pledges from friends of the church, by memorial gifts, and the like.
>
> ITS USE: The earnings from the fund for the first 36 months, are to be earmarked for financing a Family Growth Center, expected to commence in 1976 in Glen

Ellyn. In addition, developmental and start-up expenses may be covered from interest developed by the fund prior to that time. Other than the above, no distribution will be made from the fund until the expiration of three years, and then only from the accrued interest, and in increments of not less than $1,000. After the first three years, distribution from the fund will be restricted to causes endorsed by the Presbyterian Church and approved by this congregation, through its Session.

ADMINISTRATION: The administration of the fund will rest with a committee of Fund Trustees consisting of 2 ruling Elders (one designated Chairman of the Trustees,) and 2 Deacons, appointed by the Moderator of the respective boards, and 2 members of the congregation, nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation at a congregational meeting.

The first year 2 Elders and 2 Deacons will be appointed, and 2 members from the congregation will be elected, one for one year, and one for two years. Each year thereafter, one Elder and one Deacon will be appointed and one member from the congregation elected for a two year term.

The responsibility of the Fund Trustees would be to receive the funds, arrange for their investment in appropriate depositories, or in the purchase of securities. Such investment in securities will be restricted to issues of the Federal Government, or issues insured by the Federal Government. The Fund Trustees would also seek out worthy beneficiaries of the Fund, and recommend all disbursements to the Session for approval. The Fund Trustees shall maintain true and accurate

records of all receipts, investments and disbursements and shall make regular monthly reports thereon to the Session.

CONTROL: Control of the Living Mission Fund shall rest with the Session. The Session will have available to it, the advice of the Fund Trustees.

DISSOLUTION: Should the Living Mission Fund fail to reach a sum that, in the opinion of the Fund Trustees and Session, would justify its continuance; then, on instruction of the Session, the Fund Trustees will proceed to liquidate the fund; first by disbursement of a sum not to exceed $15,000 to the Family Growth Center, then such funds as may remain to recommended Presbyterian mission projects. This process, if started, is to be completed in a period not to exceed two years from its start.

TERMINATION: when established, the Living Mission Fund shall continue for a period of 15 years. At the end of 15 years, the Session, in consultation with the Fund Trustees, shall determine if the fund should be continued or dissolved.

AMENDMENT: This agreement can be amended upon a favorable two-thirds vote of the Session at any regular scheduled meeting, not prior to two weeks after such amendment is presented to Session members at a duly announced meeting, or by mail.

If you have often wondered what the Living Mission Fund really was, now you know. You will be hearing more about it later.

The Board of Deacons, under their program, "Christmas International", had hosted 21 foreign students during the Christmas just passed. The year started with a church membership of 1,537 and a budget of $194,500. Despite what appeared on the record in the past, *First Press*

seems to show up every month, and that is good.

Rev. Charles Alcorn retired as Associate Pastor in order to continue his studies in Pastoral Counseling. Nancy Schelkopf was named Church Librarian. On April 21, Dr. Clinton Marsh, Moderator of the General Assembly, preached in our pulpit. On Oct. 27, Dr. John MacIntyre, President of Edinburgh University, preached to us.

Early in February, Dr. Enright received a phone call from William Thompson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, asking to arrange for a telephone discussion with him and John Craddock (me) the following day. I couldn't imagine what I had done wrong that was so important that the General Assembly was involved. So the next day I washed my feet, donned my Sunday suit, and went to work. The anticipated phone call finally came through, and it was to ask if I would be willing to accept an appointment to represent our denomination as a delegate to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to be held in Edinburgh, SCOTLAND, in May. What a wonderful honor for me, and I trust for my church.

One of the most interesting weddings ever held in our church was conducted by Rev. George Ekstrom on Apr. 20. In those days, the Administrator arranged weddings. Our good member, Paul Chen, approached me to see if a wedding could be arranged for his friend, Rudolph S. Huang to Lily R. Lai. Mr. Huang was not a member of our church, but that wasn't a great problem. The problem, as I saw it, was that Lily was on her way to America from China, and she couldn't speak a word of English. At the next Staff meeting the proposed wedding was the main topic of discussion, and the decision was made that the matter be placed in the hands of Rev. Ekstrom. I can only imagine how the pre-wedding consultations were handled, because I don't think George was any better at speaking Chinese than Lily was at speaking English. It must be said that George was up to the task before him. The wedding went off beautifully, and the reception in John Knox Hall was—different. I was there.

1975

It is good to see the slow, steady growth of our congregation. We started this year with a membership of 1,582. Our budget was $211,365.

Much of our activity this year was directed to the 50th Anniversary. The proposed calendar for 1976 is:

May 2 or 9	The Truth Singers concert.
May ?	Anniversary dinner, with three former pastors invited to speak.
May 16	Anniversary worship service in Glenbard West Auditorium.
July 4	A Church float in the parade, with coffee and donuts served on the lawn.
Oct.	Several family dinners in John Knox Hall.
Nov.	Reconsecration worship service.

Proposed fund raising events for the 50th anniversary were the sale of commemorative plates, one-a-day notes, and advertising interviews through Ad Factors. Dick Sleckman, chairman of fund raising for the anniversary reported that the pledges for the Living Mission Fund had reached $108,000. A committee was established to outline

the purpose and goals of the Family Counseling Center with William Glenn as Chairman.

The Administrator had been authorized to promptly sell any stocks, or other securities of whatever nature that might be given to the church. The Administrator had been commissioned a Notary Public for the convenience of the church and its members.

Charles Ellenbaum was taken under care of the Session and of Presbytery with a view to entering the ministry. Gary Sattler has been ordained and has accepted a call to serve as Assistant Pastor to our church. Harriet Jeffries was elected President of the Women's Association. Jan Sutfin was appointed Director of Christian Education (Children). Eugene Jackels was Clerk of Session. Richard Whitecotton was back with us again as Director of Music, this is for the third time.

A new church was being organized in Woodridge, named Lumen Christi Church. We helped in its organization with a grant of $3,000.

1976

50 years of God's work. That was our motto for this anniversary year. Let us review how we marked this important milestone. On March 21 the musical group "Truth" presented a God and Country program of contemporary, patriotic, and gospel music, which was held in Glenbard auditorium. Then in May, three of our former Pastors preached, Dr. Richard Dempsey on May 2, Rev. Lorenz Huenemann on May 9, and Rev. Lawrence Schwarz on May 23.

The anniversary service was held on May 16 at Glenbard West Auditorium. The speaker was Dr. Charlie Shedd, a nationally known minister, counselor, and author. Dr. Shedd also held special meetings, On Friday, May 14 with couples, and on Saturday, May 15 with men, women, grandparents, and young people, each in a separate group.

On July 4 our church entered a float in the annual parade. On Oct. 17, and again on Oct. 24 there was a family dinner in John Knox Hall, and on the same days, a pageant of the early days of the church was held in the Sanctuary. The final event was a service of reconsecration of the congregation in November.

Dr. Enright received a letter from President Gerald Ford, congratulating the church on our anniversary. The Session authorized the for-

mation of an Illinois, not for profit corporation, named Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center, with 6 participating churches. At this time (1994) there are 20 churches associated together in this project. The Center was officially dedicated at a service in our church on Sept. 26. Rev. Charles Alcorn was elected Director of the Center and Jean Olsen was Secretary.

Sandy Black was appointed Youth Observer to the 188th General Assembly. Rev. George Ekstrom was nominated to the General Counsel of Presbytery. Rev. Gary Sattler was elevated from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor. Wayne Ludwig was appointed Clerk of Session.

We started the year with a membership of 1,600 and a budget of $230,170. The Session agreed to a three month trial of a candy machine in the youth lounge. What were they thinking of?

I would close this year with a story about our Anniversary service on May 16. As you know that service was scheduled to be held in Glenbard Auditorium. I was awakened that Sunday morning sometime between 6 and 7 a.m. to the sound of someone delivering a message via bullhorn. Looking outside I saw a police car driving slowly down Forest Avenue, and that was where the noise was originating. On calling the Police Department to learn what was going on, I was told there had been a train wreck near the end of Western Avenue, that one or two tank cars containing a toxic liquid had ruptured, and the fumes were being wafted north, AND I should evacuate and drive north. This we did, driving to the Venture and Jewel parking lot at North Avenue and Main Street. Here we were joined by several friends and neighbors. The wives, with their usual foresight, had brought along a thermos of coffee and a plentiful supply of rolls and donuts. We were just settling down to enjoy a community breakfast when that police car found us. They told us that the cloud was coming our way, and we had to move, preferably to somewhere south of Roosevelt Road. So we packed the goodies, drove east to highway 53 and south

to Roosevelt Road, then west to Park Boulevard and the parking lot by that Jewel store. There we waited and waited; and we had a church service to attend. After hanging around an incredibly long time, we decided to try for home. We finally got there, but not before we discovered several streets that we had never heard of before. Arriving home, we bathed, dressed, had a proper breakfast and took off for Glenbard. We have to thank the Chicago & North Western Railway for putting an exclamation point on the 50th Anniversary.

1977

Here we are, facing the second half century with a membership of 1,644 and an annual budget of $284,074.

The first challenge of the year was the proposal by the Staff that we establish a program of "Sunday Night Happenings". These happenings would occur about every month or six weeks, and would bring in people of note who had a message for us. The initial proposal suggested this agenda:

The Truth Singers.

Norma Zimmer of the Lawrence Welk singers.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Maria VonTrapp.

Carol Lawrence.

The purpose was to invite the community to these affairs in an effort to evangelize the unchurched. The cost was set at $1,200, which was to be raised by the congregation. It was an exciting project, but unfortunately could only be partially implemented. Miss Zimmer had a conflicting schedule. Bishop Sheen died, and Madam Von Trapp was ill. But we did have the Truth Singers, who had been so enthusiastically received at our 50th anniversary, and also Carol Lawrence, who

gave an inspiring performance of *Mary, the Mother of Jesus.* These events were held in Glenbard West Auditorium. The house was packed for both events. We were never able to determine how well they fulfilled our purpose.

The Waukegan Presbytery issued a pastoral letter to be presented to the General Assembly which was scheduled to consider the ordination of homosexual persons to the ministry. Our Session then presented to the General Assembly a statement of our attitude to this disturbing problem.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO THE WAUKEGAN MOTION

WHEREAS the question concerning the ordination of homosexual persons is before the General Assembly, and,

WHEREAS the consideration of that question does not preclude the expression of belief and concern by other judicatories and individuals of the church, and,

WHEREAS the scriptures and the confessions of the church have declared the practice of homosexuality to be sinful, and,

WHEREAS candidates for ordination "shall be instructed by the confessions of the church", and,

WHEREAS the ordination of avowed homosexuals would repudiate the Confessional Standards of the church,

WE MOVE that the Presbytery of Chicago go on record as affirming publicly the Confession of the Church, the 1970 and 1975 General Assembly statements concerning homosexuality, and therefor oppose the ordination of avowed and/or practicing homosexual persons.

WE CALL upon the Church to reflect the love of Christ for all people in our interaction with homosexual per-

sons so that they might fully experience the liberating and changing power of the Gospel.

The Session approved a Mission and Capital Improvement drive to be held in the spring of 1978. The goal was $100,000, and the purpose was to raise $50,000 for mission causes, and $50,000 for capital improvements in our buildings. A proposed mission project to Nicaragua did not receive congregational support and was dropped.

Tentative plans to mark Dr. Enright's ten years as our pastor leaned towards funding the family on a trip to the Holy Land in June 1978.

In June Rev. George Ekstrom was granted Honorably Retired status by Presbytery. Rev. A. Wayne Benson joined the staff as Associate Pastor. Rev. Gary Sattler's status was changed from Assistant to Associate Pastor. Jan Sutfin resigned as Director of Christian Education, and was taken under care of the Session and Presbytery as a candidate for Christian ministry. Phyllis Ludwig was appointed Director of Christian Education. Ann Gahlberg was appointed Clerk of Session. Nancy Schelkopf resigned as Librarian and was succeeded by Donald Sage.

In view of his work as General Chairman of the 50th Anniversary committee, the congregation elected Eugene W. Morgenstern Honorary Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Committee.

And that was 1977.

1978

By now our membership was 1,713, and the annual budget was $304,395. We just keep on growing.

Much of our efforts were aimed toward getting our project, "Keys to the Kingdom" off and running. The planning committee was chaired by Bob Goldsborough, with Donal Olsen, Architect. A building committee was also formed with Douglass Pillinger as chairman. $55,000 was pledged before the campaign started, and by the time it was over we had $202,500 in pledges. Our initial plan was to designate funds for capital improvements in the Chapel of $20,000, church office remodeling of $15,000 and seed money for a building to join the Sanctuary and the Christian Education Building, including an elevator between the upper and lower floors.

The Long Range Planning Committee presented to the Session their plan for 3 to 7 years in the life of the church. This was their plan:

> Church Model—The Church is God's agent in Human Transformation. Transformation occurs via the transmission of faith.
>
> Provide optimum of variety of worship, learning, and service.

Give 50% of pledges to support mission in all of its forms.

Membership—2,000.

Giving—5% of taxable income.

Provide physical plant that meets the needs of an active 2,000 member congregation and its staff.

Cushions were installed in the pews, a memorial to Dr. John C.W. Morrow. A seminar tour of Greece and the Holy Land was proposed under the auspices of the Adult Education Department. This was proposed for 1979.

Ina Wissmiller was appointed by Presbytery as delegate to the General Assembly at San Diego, Cal. She was also appointed Clerk of Session. Nancy Edison resigned as Director of the Westminster Day Nursery, and was succeeded by Barbara Lukes. Jan Bosworth resigned as Church Secretary, and was succeeded by Diana Ladish. Frank Miles was elected President of the Corporation. Richard Whitecotton decided to leave as Minister of Music. Choir direction was taken over, first by Mary Hopper and later by Tony Payne.

Session records report a letter from Dr. Enright to a church member, apologizing for an accident resulting from someone smoking in John Knox Hall. Following that, the Session concluded that "with full sympathy for persons in an incident of damaged clothing, but in light of potential discord that a no smoking rule in John Knox Hall could generate, we recommend no change in the present practice. How things have changed!

1979

We started this year with a membership of 1,650 which was the first drop in membership on record. The budget was $341,863.

The Keys to the Kingdom program was now activated, and its activity is reflected in Chuck Hoeppner traveling to Herbertpur, India, where he worked for six months as a medical aid to Dr. Sy Satow. Rev. A. Wayne Benson and Gail Ellenbaum both spent some weeks teaching in the Cook Christian School at Tempe, Arizona. That school trains Native Americans for the ministry. Later in the year, Dr. Enright and Dr. Douglas Mains also traveled to Herbertpur, where Dr. Mains contributed his medical skills for the benefit of the natives. The Keys program contributed the money to build a new maternity wing to the Herbertpur Hospital.

The Board of Deacons was restructured into three task forces, with an Executive Board. The search for a youth minister to succeed Rev. Gary Sattler was terminated. It was decided that the youth program would be conducted by a small group of seminary students, with Session supervision. In the meantime, Gary Sattler left for Germany where he continued his studies, and received his Doctor of Philosophy degree. Gary Kreml was elected President of the Corporation.

Part of the Keys to the Kingdom program related to our own church. This was a proposal to join the Sanctuary and the Christian Education Building with a corridor. This corridor would contain a parlor and kitchenette, rest rooms, and a library on the upper floor. The lower floor would consist of choir rooms and utility rooms. The cost was set at $359,460. Our committee wanted to include an elevator for the use of handicapped people. This suggestion was strongly opposed by the architect on the basis of cost. Our people prevailed, and the elevator is now there as proof of our determination. The final cost was $420,000. Ground breaking ceremony was held on April 8.

There developed a community controversy on the subject of religion in schools. Dr. Enright wrote a statement on the subject, which the Session ordered to appear on a full page announcement in the *Glen Ellyn News.* Dr. Enright always had a way with words.

The Adult Education Committee proposed a 1980 tour of the Oberemmergau Passion Play and reformation tour of Switzerland, Scotland and England. Already at this time, the tour was fully booked.

Concern was expressed over the amount of delinquent pledges. What else is new?

1980

In January Dr. Enright was at Tempe, Arizona, teaching at the Cook Training School for Native Americans as an activity of the Keys to the Kingdom program. His program for us was titled "Ownership Concept". It was proposed to involve all members in the work of the church; that no member should be on more than one board or committee; by 1985 our mission giving should be ⅓ of our total budget, and that the goal for giving should be 5% of income after taxes. Also that all members should feel an ownership of all programs and activities.

A committee was formed to focus on the establishment of small groups. The General Assembly has stated that it is mandatory that both women and men serve on the boards of the church. The search committee for a youth minister was reestablished. The Administration Committee formed a task force to determine the need for a computer in the church. Guidelines were established for the maintenance of committee minutes and records; and such records must be reviewed by the Administrator before being disposed of.

On April 28, the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Arts & Preservation Commission presented a Certificate of Merit to our church for the execution of an approved building and landscaping addition.

Rev.Ames Broen was called as youth minister and assistant pastor,

effective Sept. 14. Beth Bonde was appointed Clerk of Session. Dr. Enright was elected a delegate to the General Assembly. Thomas Dickelman and James Miller were taken under care of Session as candidates for Christian ministry. Arnold Bland was named President of the Corporation. Jeannette Sutfin was ordained on March 30. Douglass Pillinger and John Steffee were elected directors of the Corporation of Chicago Presbytery. We had 2 new part time employees: Ina Wissmiller as Membership Secretary and Harold Fossum as Assistant to the Administrator. Charles Ellenbaum has completed the work on his M.Div. degree. Charles did not seek ordination, as the college where he taught informed him that if he was ordained he would not be able to teach his courses. It was felt that ordination would deprive him of his objectivity. Now we know what happens to ministers when they are ordained. Interesting, isn't it? I am glad to report that since that time the college has changed its mind.

Our membership was 1,657. Our budget was $372,205.

Dr. Enright requested the dissolution of his pastoral relationship with our church on April 1, 1981.

The following letter from Robert Goldsborough was presented by the Administrator to the Session.

> "Dear John, I'm aware that Bill Enright has suggested in light of his plans that he pay his own way to India in January for the work with Sy Satow's hospital. This trip is an integral part of the Keys to the Kingdom program that we originally developed. In that program we committed as a church to both financial and human support to the programs in Arizona and India, and Bill's planned trip to India is one component of that program. It seems to me that his leaving Glen Ellyn in April is immaterial where the Keys program is involved, and that the church should support his trip to India."

We will miss Bill Enright.

1981

We started this year with a membership of 1,724, and with a budget of $431,300, which is a pretty good start.

A program entitled "Care" was established. This program was to provide assistance and counseling for those members of the congregation who had lost their jobs. It was created by the Board of Deacons, and was operated by that board.

The General Assembly, upon the approval of an overture, decreed that church property is held in trust for the benefit of the entire denomination, as opposed to local church ownership.

The Hawthorne School was placed on the market, and our church seriously considered acquiring this property, to be used as a community center. It was expected that the initial outlay would be about $40,000 for remodeling and maintenance. A Corporation was formed under the title of "Hawthorne Community Center". Negotiations were active between the church committee, under the chairmanship of Jack Barber, the School Board, and the Planning Committee of the village. After several months of hard work, our plans came to naught when the Village denied a special use permit. While these negotiations were going on, the Schramm home came on the market. This residence adjoins the church property to the west on Cottage Avenue. Our offer was $85,000,

but the owners wanted $100,000. Having failed to reach a meeting of the minds, we concluded that it would not be prudent to pursue this matter. The principal reason was lack of funds. So neither of these goals were reached, and it seems wise to attribute this to the will of God.

A committee was established to develop a church policy pertaining to wills and bequests.

The congregation was asked by the Session to extend its "Keys to the Kingdom" pledges for six months, in order to cover shrinkage on the original pledges, and cover our commitments to Cook Training School and the Herbertpur Hospital. This was done.

A Pastoral Nominating Committee of 16 was formed under the chairmanship of Dick Sleckman. A recognition Sunday for the Enright family was held on the afternoon of Mar. 29. As a tribute to Dr. Enright, a fund of $10,000 was raised. At Dr. Enright's request, this fund was to be invested, and the earnings were to be divided equally between the hospital at Herbertpur and a Pastor's Discretionary Fund. A letter from Dr. Enright to the Session and the congregation read, in part: "My family and I want you to know how deeply touched we were with your extravaganza of love on our last Sunday together. I am proud and pleased with your concept of a mission fund. First, I would suggest that you call it the Andrew Fund. Second, I would be pleased if you would use half of the fund for our mission project in Herbertpur, India. The second half of the principal of the Andrew Fund should be invested in the same manner in which we have invested the principal of the Living Mission, but the Senior Pastor should be sole Administrator in terms of deciding who will use this fund for pastoral care and emergency relief. It is imperative that confidences be kept if this fund is to be used with meaning and integrity.

Looking back, you are a super, super congregation. I will be watching you with joy and anticipation in the many years to come. God bless you all."

This year James D. Miller, Tom Dickelman, and Jeff Smith were taken under the care of Presbytery to seek a career in Christian ministry.

The name of the Women's Association was changed to United Presbyterian Women (UPW). Dr. Wayne Benson was named Interim Head of Staff, Dr. John Burton, Moderator, and Dr. Don Wardlaw, Interim Pastor. Beth Bonde was named Clerk of Session. Arnold Bland was President of the Corporation.

Grants from the Living Mission Fund this year were $8,563.70.

The church had a booth at the Glen Ellyn "Expo", which was held at Glenbard West High School, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. And away we go!

1982

Now we had a membership of 1,781, and a budget of $475,739.

A special instruction was issued that if it was necessary to move any piece of furniture in the Parlor, it must be LIFTED, not dragged, to save the carpeting. It reminds one of buying a new car—for a few weeks. After that it is old stuff.

For some years the Staff and the Board members held a two day retreat in January. This was usually held at George Williams College at Lake Geneva, Wis. This year it was held as usual. Well, almost as usual. It was no longer called a "retreat", but now it is called an "advance". It is great how much fun we can have with semantics. "Retreat" or "Advance", it serves its purpose.

Dr. Benson resigned his post as Interim Head of Staff and was succeeded by Rev. Wayland McGlathery. Rev. Ames Broen resigned on Aug. 1, and was succeeded by John Crosby as Assistant Pastor and Youth Director. In the Westminster Day Nursery, Barbara Lukes resigned as Director and was succeeded by Mary Jane Plank. Ruth Chapin was appointed Clerk of Session. John Craddock resigned as Administrator. That year the President's Dinner honored Washington, Lincoln

and Craddock. It was a great tribute for 12 years of service, and, needless to say, it was very Scottish. The position of Administrator was taken over by Willard Tucker. Mel Black was elected President of the Corporation.

Cynthia Plumstead was taken under care of Session and Presbytery as a candidate for Christian ministry.

In the autumn, an evangelistic retreat was held at the church under the leadership of Dr. Louis Evans of the National Church in Washington, D.C. A great and meaningful time.

Our ministerial candidate, Jeff Smith, suffered serious injuries in a car accident, and there was a question whether he would be able to continue his studies.

The Officers Manual contained the following: As the work load and program activity permits, each pastor is encouraged to take a "renewal break" of three days each month (incorporating the minister's weekly day off for that week in the renewal break). Renewal breaks should not be taken in any month where the pastor is on vacation, in whole or in part. No two pastors may overlap their renewal breaks. Renewal breaks are not cumulative, and should be taken in consultation with the rest of the pastoral staff. DON'T TELL JERRY.

1983

Now our membership was 1,682, and our annual budget was $499,225.

The biggest news this year was that once again we had a minister. Rev. David Wallace Philips accepted a call to our church, and was installed on Oct. 16. After this long vacancy, and a correspondingly long internship, we could, with gratitude, release Dr. John Burton, Dr. Don Wardlaw, and Rev. Wayland McGlathery. Once more we were on our own. And, in what seemed to be a continuing pattern, we purchased a new hymnal—*Hymns of the Living Church.* A month before Rev. Philips was installed, John Crosby was elected Assistant Pastor.

Craig Fee was appointed Youth Director. Lee Seyfert was elected President of the Corporation. John Steffee was re-elected President of the Presbytery Corporation. Both Ina Wissmiller and Rev. Fred Tyrrrell were appointed Commissioners to Synod. Larry Oldfield was elected Chairman of the Board of Deacons. Diana Ladish resigned as Administrator's Secretary. Jane Wanless was named Parish Caller. Both James Miller and Tom Dickelman were ordained.

A Hand Bell Choir was organized, with funds from Memorial Gifts.

The television program, "60 Minutes" earned our wrath with its

comments on the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches; so much so that the Session published the following statement:

> The Stewardship Committee of the Session was requested to inquire and respond to inquiries from members about the television program "60 Minutes" as aired Jan. 23, 1983. The program as presented, implied that the World Council of Churches used funds received by them for support of political activities in foreign countries, which actions included arms purchases and rebellious activities. The Stewardship Committee has received and reviewed written responses from those groups in rebuttal to the "60 Minutes" program, and further explaining their mission activities, the Committee concluded that the television segment was biased and incorrectly portrayed the total mission work of the church groups. The World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches are not infallible and some efforts are subject to question. However the overall work of those groups is in keeping with our church's goals. The Stewardship Committee supports the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches.

Now over ten years have passed since that statement was written. Would we express the same thoughts if it were written in 1995? I wonder.

1984

We started the year with the ordination of John Crosby, and his installation as Assistant Pastor. Our membership was 1,659, and we were working with a budget of $525,000.

Dr. Benson took over the North Manse as his residence. Sales of any kind in the Narthex were prohibited in order to allow tasteful posters to be displayed. The supervision of mission giving was placed under the control of the Board of Deacons.

A church bowling league was organized. That seems to be all that we know about it.

The Memorial Gifts Committee was re-established, consisting of the Administrator, Chairman of Administration Committee, and the Membership Secretary. The Living Mission Fund Trustees were directed to disburse the earnings of the fund in the year in which they were earned.

Willard Tucker, our very capable Administrator, became seriously ill. His responsibilities as Administrator were to be taken over by a team of volunteers, under the direction of David Lightfoot. In a matter of days it was discovered that this work could not be carried out by a team of volunteers, and the former Administrator (me) was called back

to fill in. To our great sorrow, Willard's illness was terminal. On one of my visits to him, he said that these two years as Administrator were the most enjoyable of his working career. As Interim Administrator, I was instructed to seek a new Administrator. At my own request, I was then relieved of my duties as the church representative on the Glen Ellyn Sesquicentennial Committee.

First Press and *With Our People* were consolidated, and effective on Jan. 1, 1985, were published as an expanded weekly.

Rev. Wayne A. Benson resigned from our staff, effective Oct. 21. Wayne was highly regarded by the congregation as well as the Boards. A retirement dinner was held, and many letters of appreciation were received, and were entered on the Session records, one of which is presented here:

Mr. Moderator,

> I would like the minutes of this meeting to show that this congregation has complied with Dr.Benson's request for dissolution of his call with the deepest regret; that we have done so only because of our love and gratitude for him, acknowledging the debt we owe him for his fine leadership, not only during the good times but especially during the more than the two years that he struggled with us while we were without a Senior Pastor; that our respect for his ministry among us, now allows us to wish him God-speed as he feels he must continue his work elsewhere.
>
> Judith J. Wayland

Later in the year, John Crosby's position was upgraded from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor. In September, Rev.Nancy Becker was called as Assistant Pastor. Robert Gustavson was taken under care of the Session as a candidate for Christian ministry. Tom Dickelman was ordained into the ministry.

John Steffee was elected Commissioner to Presbytery. Rev. David Philips was conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Muskingum College on May 20. Phyllis Ludwig resigned as Director of Christian Education to accept another position. Steven Dome was elected President of the Corporation. Susan Buck resigned as Librarian. Marti Thompson served as interim Director of Christian Education.

There was much concern about Beacon Neighborhood House, both as to its operation and its personnel. Our church had been very active in working with Beacon House, all of the work was done by Lyndal Lightfoot and her helpers. Our boards are watching with interest the outlook for this mission.

It was during this year that we started to hear that word—"Computer". What is it? And why?...

I will keep nothing from you that I learn in preparing this history. Therefore I must report that at the Stated Session Meeting held on Apr. 2, 1984, there is an item listed "Executive Session". What were they talking about? Wouldn't you like to know? Wouldn't I like to know!

1985

This was the year that we took on the Federal Government in a dispute of words and dollars. And then there was another dispute, this one with DuPage County authorities.

Our membership was at 1,682, and our budget was $566,706.

The origination of the Barnabas Fund was approved. This fund was designed to help members who have suffered from unfortunate occurrences. Frequently the problem was loss of a job; sometime it was temporary matters that required financial assistance. The nature of this fund made it essential that these matters be held in strictest confidence, so we mustn't get into details. Its operation was handled by a special committee under the Board of Deacons. The publication *Tidings* appears for the first time.

Our Session submitted an overture to the General Assembly, petitioning that the quorum for congregational meetings be reduced from 10% of the membership to 5%. A church van was purchased to cover needed transportation to retreats and other activities; usually in connection with the youth program. This was a used van. The names and titles of awards receiving Boy Scout honors are to be entered in the Session records.

John Steffee was appointed Moderator of the Reserve Division of Presbytery. John Crosby was installed as Associate Pastor on May 19. William Kramer took over the duties of Administrator on April 20. Nancy Becker was advanced to Associate Pastor. Elaine Mogor was elected President of United Presbyterian Women for 1986. Rev. Jim Berkley was named to Parish Associate.

A group of East Indian natives were granted the use of the Chapel and the John Knox Hall on Sunday afternoon and evenings. The group was led by Rev. Singha.

The Session approved the following statement:

> That our church not use the language of the *Inclusive Language Lectionary* as prepared by the NCCC;
>
> That we not use inclusive language in reference to the Deity;
>
> That hymns and anthems not be changed to inclusive language.

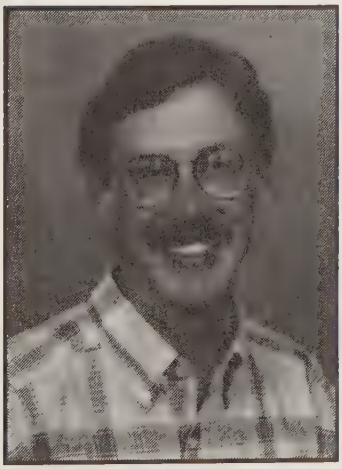
Finally, it is necessary to include in this history the matter referred to at the beginning of this chapter. Our set-to with the Social Security laws. It started in 1981, when some changes were made in determining those persons who were subject to Social Security deductions. It was the conclusion of the church that our pastors are not employees of the church, but of the Presbytery. Also that some of our paid employees were part-time workers, and had indicated a desire not to participate in Social Security. The government did not agree with our interpretation, and presented us with a bill of about $58,000 for taxes, interest, and penalties for 1981, 1982, and 1983. After discussions carried on over a long period of time by Administrators Tucker, Kramer and myself, a compromise was reached that the church was to pay $16,715.46, which was the amount due for the year 1983 only. It seemed like a pretty fair settlement.

When Dr. Enright and his family exited the North Manse, the DuPage Board of Assessors put the building onto the tax rolls. Our appeal for tax exempt status was rejected. A compromise was arrived at, that we would pay taxes on one-third of the assessed valuation, and that the remaining two-thirds would be declared exempt. These two little events made the Administrator's office an exciting, worrisome and busy place. We love those taxing bodies, but we still think our interpretations are much fairer.

Parish Associates

Dr. Fred Tyrrell

Rev. James Berkley



Dr. Dennis Okholm

Rev. Nancy Calvert

1986

On this our 60th year, we started out with a membership of 1,632, and a budget of $611,615.

We are not easily discouraged. Another parish program is in the works. This time it will be called the Shepherding Program. Gerrald Brown, the son of Jim and Joyce, crafted a new baptismal font, and presented it to the church.

Dick Martin was President of the Corporation. Nancy Becker was installed as Associate Pastor on Feb. 16. Malcolm Davis was taken under care of Session as a candidate for the ministry. Dr. William A. Phemister was named Church Organist. Rev. Fred Tyrrell was appointed Parish Associate.

The Women's Association recorded that 20 forks were missing from the kitchen inventory. Surely we will be able to replace those missing forks. We wouldn't want anyone eating with there fingers, would we? Elaine Mogor is President of the Women's Association. Because of the merger, the name of the United Presbyterian Women will be changed to "Presbyterian Women" (P.W.).

A problem developed by having youth in the Sanctuary and the Youth Lounge without supervision. In the past there has been some

serious vandalism in the Youth Lounge due to lack of adequate supervision. Since the North Manse was not being used as a manse, and other activities were being conducted there, the church has received several complaints about the actions of youth in the grounds of the manse. Our Cottage Avenue neighbors called a meeting to resolve the problem. With the church making several accommodations, the neighbors withdrew their complaints.

David Lightfoot was named the chairman of a 60th Anniversary Committee. A 3-year pledge program was started in July, 1986, which resulted in pledges amounting to $199,770. Members who pledged could designate where their pledge would go. The options were:

> DuPage County Jail Chaplaincy.
>
> X-Ray machine for Herbertpur Hospital, India.
>
> Learning Center for Lawndale Community Church, Chicago.
>
> Church mortgage repayment, with interest savings to the Barnabas Fund.

At its June Stated meeting, the Session endorsed a tribute to the work of Lyndal and David Lightfoot, which was recorded in the Session records thus:

> WHEREAS, David Lightfoot has served the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn in many capacities for many years with enthusiasm, dedication, and at considerable cost in terms of time given, and effort expended;
>
> WHEREAS, David Lightfoot had just completed another of those notable achievements in service to First Presbyterian, namely, being the chairperson of the Sixtieth Anniversary Committee;
>
> AND WHEREAS, the committee David Lightfoot chaired was so successful in their efforts that almost

> $200,000 was raised for four mission projects in which many people will be helped, healed, and told the Good News of Jesus Christ,
>
> THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn express our heartfelt gratitude to David Lightfoot for the extraordinary service, extending our congratulations to him for a job well done, and offering our best wishes to him and Mrs.Lightfoot as they continue their dynamic ministry in our midst and beyond the walls of this church.

There is one activity within our church that hasn't received much attention in this record. That is the Service Organization of the Women's Association. Over the years, a great many of the women of our church have participated in this mission. Whenever there is a need, Service Organization is there. Whether it is an illness, or a death, or any other crisis, this organization, with its gifts of love and food and care, depicts in a very real way, the commission that we have from Christ. May this Service Organization continue as long as there is a First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn.

1987

Continued complaints of some of our neighbors resulted in letters being sent from the Session to our youth, the parents of our youth, and to our neighbors. We are trying to keep peace with everyone, but it appears that everyone is not of the same mind.

This year our membership is at 1,645, and our budget is $663,656. According to our Book of Order, church members may serve communion, as well as officers. The decision was made to convert the North Manse to church offices, at a cost of $85,000.

The Covenant Groups are to be under the control of the Church Growth Committee. We haven't said much about these Covenant Groups, and we should.

In 1970 a program was approved, to be known as "Wednesday Community". It was to be directed by Dr. Enright and Rev. Alcorn, and its purpose was for small groups to review with the pastors the meaning of their faith, their lives, etc. The program continued in a quiet way until 1975, when it started to report its activities through the Session. When Rev.Wayne Benson joined our staff in 1977, one of his main responsibilities was to promote small groups. The name was changed to "Covenant Groups", and its growth was slow, but steady. The pur-

pose has been changed, and now it is described as a Bible, or book study group, a sharing and support group, a mission study group, or something else. At this time (1995) there are 20 Covenant Groups.

Two critical events occurred this year. The first related to the music program. The congregation was very happy with the quality of the music program under the direction of Dick Whitecotton. Soon after he was engaged as Director of Music, his wife, Shirley came in voluntarily, and soon became an essential part of the program. She seemed to organize and take over the music library, started a children's choir, and we felt that we had a most excellent music department. By the time this year came around, it was felt that Shirley was over-worked, and was exhibiting signs of stress. Then she had a talk with Dr. Philips, in which she indicated that she indeed was very keyed up, and was going to retire at the end of the church year. The Staff Personnel Committee was concerned about her health, so they suggested that Shirley resign immediately, and she would receive her salary to the end of the church year. When this was proposed, Dick stated that he would not continue if his wife were not there. Subsequently, we received a letter of resignation from them both. The Session regretfully received their resignations, and efforts were started to find a new Director of Music.

The second event related to our pastor, Dr. David W. Philips. Criticism of his preaching was rising in the congregation and filtering back to the Session, and was becoming a matter of discussion and concern. At the same time, expressions of support and praise were also being heard. These matters reached Presbytery, and a representative from Presbytery came out to Glen Ellyn, and a very low key meeting was held. The result was that a letter was prepared, outlining in detail the apparent problems, and presented to Dr. Philips. Dr. Philips' previous experience was always in a church much smaller than ours—a church where he was the only pastor—and he must have found it difficult to adjust to a church with a multiple ministry such as ours.

John Huffman continued as Interim Associate Pastor.

Brian Arnold was appointed Director of Adult Discipleship.

Rebekah Marcy was appointed Director of Christian Education.

Mary Hopper was appointed Director of Music.

Jane Cory was appointed Clerk of Session.

John Craddock was appointed President of the Corporation

Nancy Becker asked that her position of Associate Pastor be dissolved.

John Crosby asked that his position of Associate Pastor be dissolved.

This wasn't the happiest year we've had.

1988

Our membership was now at 1,576, and our budget at $693,379. This was a year of change; changes in our personnel. but they were exciting changes and seemed to bode well for our future.

Jack Steffee was elected Moderator of Presbytery.

Bill Schaefle was elected Moderator of Presbytery's Long Range Planning Committee.

Craig Fee resigned as Youth Director.

Lee Seyfert was appointed Administrator

Becky Marcy resigned as Interim Director of Children Ministries.

Brian Arnold was appointed Interim Director of Children's Discipleship.

Mary Jean Plank was appointed Director of Children's Ministries.

Malcolm Davis was appointed Youth Director.

Sarah Kresse was appointed Director of Westminster Preschool.

Rev. Beth Appel was called as Associate Pastor of Adult Education.

Bette Varvaro resigned from the Session, and was appointed Church Secretary.

In addition to all these changes, we record that Fred Mueller was Moderator of the Board of Deacons; Laura Alonzo was President of the Presbyterian Women; Virginia Jenkins computerized the church membership information, thus introducing us into the computer age.

Our pastor, Rev. Philips was conferred with a Div. Min. degree from Fuller Seminary, so now he is Dr. Philips. And then there is Marti Thompson who is the recipient of a resolution that appears in the Session records. We present it here:

> WHEREAS, Marti Thompson has served as a member of the Children's Education Committee for nine years,
> AND WHEREAS, Marti has been the Superintendent of the Sunday School for three of those nine years, serving in that capacity because Nancy Becker so valued her knowledge and leadership,
> AND WHEREAS, Marti has given service over and above the call of duty during the interim period between Nancy Becker's departure and Mary Jean Plank's arrival, teaching class in a pinch, keeping things organized in a time of some disarray, heartening discouraged teachers with words of encouragement, telling people where to find things.....
> AND WHEREAS Marti has been able to keep her head when all about her were losing theirs (and maybe sometimes blaming it on her),
> AND WHEREAS, she has continued, even though not an active member of the Session, to demonstrate those qualities of an elder by serving the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the members of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn express our heartfelt gratitude to Marti Thompson for a job well done, and offer our best wishes to her as she continues her ministry of love in our midst.

The Asian Ministry that has been conducted on Sunday afternoons and evenings in our chapel has been terminated, due to lack of interest. Special meetings were conducted to consider the space needs of our program. We were experiencing a serious shortage of cash, and the Administrator was authorized to borrow such funds as needed to meet our commitments. At the same time the cost of converting the North Manse to church offices was set at $80,000, which was to be raised by a special drive in 1989.

This was the year that we first presented the Living Creche to the community. This was a creche of living people, and animals. It has been an annual event ever since, drawing an audience of several hundred viewers each year. This mission was the brainchild of Ina Wissmiller, and she has supervised the project each year.

I think it would be nice to give our pastor the last word for this year. This is what he had to say in his annual report to the congregation:

"Among the things about 1988 that I will keep in my memory bank—

1988 was the year we completed the organ expansion.

1988 was the year we gave 45% of our receipts to missions.

1988 was the year we saw no less than seven changes in our staff.

1988 was the year that we welcomed Beth Appel as the first to join our staff during my ministry."

1989

Now our membership is at 1,572. Session records show a budget of $818,162, but there appeared to be some question as to whether this figure would hold up. Several mentions of the budget appeared in later records, but no mention of the final approved budget until the end of the year, when the annual report shows a budget figure of $704,588.

Another item that pops up all through the year with no specific conclusion, is that a proposal has been considered for a major fund drive in 1990 to provide for capital funds and missions.

A used van was purchased for the use of church groups, particularly for youth groups. A separate standing committee was formed titled "Staff Personnel". This is an off-shoot of the Administration Committee, and all activities of the Administration Committee that relates to personnel would be transferred to Staff Personnel. The Building & Grounds Committee was combined with the Administration Committee.

The Stephen Ministry, a lay caring program was begun under the leadership of Rev.Beth Appel and Grayson Van Camp. The School of Christian Living continued with an impressive catalog of classes. It's exciting how new projects keep surfacing, and more exciting that most

of them are successful. Occasionally we run into one that doesn't take off. For instance, a Pioneer Club program was well attended, and seen to be a positive program by parents as well as children, but it had to be discontinued due to lack of adult volunteers. One of our more successful programs was the establishment of a Church Library a few years ago. The Library provided the people of our church with materials that would help support their commitment to God and to the church. The collection includes audio tapes, videos, magazines, and books for all ages.

Jack Barber was President of the Corporation.

Robert Bahrey was Moderator of the Board of Deacons.

Bonnie Cowie succeeded Laura Alonzo as President of the President Women.

Mary Hopper resigned as Director of Music, and was succeeded by John Albrecht.

Sara Kresse resigned as Director of Westminster Preschool and was succeeded by Mary Jean Plank.

Mary Jean Plank resigned as Superintendent of the Bible School and was succeeded by Interim Donna Jennings.

Trevecca Okholm was elected Director of Christian Education.

LeRoy Seyfert resigned as Administrator, and after a few months with Bill Kramer (remember him?) was succeeded by Rev. Robert McWilliams, a retired Methodist minister. Not the most brilliant move we ever made.

Leif Olsen was appointed Moderator of Presbytery's New Church Development Committee.

Diane Ford was taken under care of the Session as an Inquirer into the ministry.

Jack Steffee was elected Commissioner to the General Assembly at Philadelphia.

Dr. Philips reported to the Session that 60 to 65% of his time is devoted to administration, and only 10 to 15% to pastoral activity. There is something seriously wrong here.

1990

This year was preoccupied with plans for a major fund drive to finance an anticipated building expansion. First, however, it was proposed that the church indebtedness of $289,000 be retired. In addition it was proposed that a much needed upgrading of the existing physical plant be undertaken at an estimated cost of $165,000. Following that, John Knox Hall was to be redecorated, new kitchen equipment was to be installed. Also additional classroom equipment was to be provided, and Westminster Hall was to be remodeled. This part of the plan had a price tag of $235,000.

After all this had been done, a facility trust of $111,000 was to be established to cover future property purchases and emergency repairs. The next $500,000 raised was to be used to erect a 6,000 square foot construction, joining the Sanctuary and the Chapel. $126,000 was to be set aside to expand the north wall of the Sanctuary in order to accommodate the choir in the Chancel.

Finally, the church office building (formerly the North Manse) would be razed, and a family life center would be constructed. This was to be used for recreation and meetings, and would be equipped with kitchen and storage facilities.

The total of all these items was $2,426,000, to which would be added a tithe of $242,600 for mission.

A series of meetings were held to acquaint the congregation with this new venture. In September the Session decided that the 1991 budget and the capital fund program would be presented to the congregation WITH EMPHASIS ON THE CAPITAL FUND.

Hand Bell Choirs were organized for adults, youth and children. This proved to be a most acceptable addition to our music program. This year we also introduced "Jerusalem Journey", an eight part pageant of the events of Holy Week. Over 100 members were involved in this presentation.

Over the 20 years that it has been in existence, our Church Library has experienced a steady growth first under the direction of Susan Buck, and in later years, of Jan O'Connell, then Marjorie Seyfert.

Our membership was now 1,431, and the budget for 1990 was $735,602. Mary Hackman was Clerk of Session. Douglas Eyles was President of the Corporation. John Fugate was Moderator of the Board of Deacons. Mary Jane Plank resigned as Director of Westminster Preschool. Barbara Perry was Moderator of Presbyterian Women. Kathleen Weller was received under the care of the Session as an inquirer into Christian ministry.

And everyone was talking about the capital fund and its aims.

1991

We started the year with a membership of 1,388 and a budget of $737,069. The Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 25, failed to reach a quorum, so that everything that was done had to be done over again at a meeting where we did have a quorum. One of the things that the congregation did was to recommend to the Session that it was their will that the Living Mission Fund be continued. This action was verified when the official meeting, with a quorum was held.

A Capital Fund Committee was created to work in conjunction with the Long Range Planning Committee. The capital Fund reached a total of $1,028,000. National Revised Standard Versions of the Bible were purchased for the Sanctuary pews.

Dr. Philips requested that the congregation concur with him in his request to dissolve the pastoral relations existing between him and our church. Rev. Cynthia Simmons was appointed Interim Moderator, and Calvin Marcum became Interim Pastor.

The Memorial Gifts Committee was placed under the Administration and property committee of the Session.

Don Woerner was President of the Corporation. Richard Spring was Moderator of the Board of Deacons. Ina Wissmiller was honored

at Presbytery's annual volunteer breakfast. Malcolm Davis was installed as Associate Pastor. Jan O'Connell resigned as Librarian. Jan Wright was named Director of Westminster Preschool.

Grayson VanCamp was taken under care of Presbytery in her goal to reach the ministry. Elizabeth Barber and Dorothy Fergus were Co-Moderators of Presbyterian Women.

1992

This year was a critical one so far as finances were concerned. In September 1991, the drive for Continue the Vision was launched, with a goal of $2,600,000. Because this promotion came almost simultaneously with the normal stewardship drive for 1992, the stewardship drive suffered greatly. The 1992 proposed budget was $717,249 but the anticipated income was $631,562. The budget was then approved at $717,249.

In March the question of using the Living Mission Fund to cover the shortage was discussed, and it was decided to go back to the congregation asking for additional funds to cover the expected 1992 deficit.

In August the Session decided that in order to meet the budget for missions as passed in January of $122,715 that we draw from the Living Mission Fund the amount necessary to start paying mission expenditures by September. As funds come in and there is a surplus at the end of the year, it was recommended that the Living Mission Fund be repaid. In September, the Trustees of the Living Mission Fund were instructed to discontinue issuing grants from the Living Fund until further notice.

The Administrator summarized finances since the beginning of the year. We started with a deficit of $55,574 as of Jan. 1, 1992. The anticipated deficit at Dec. 31, 1992 is $48,335, making a total deficit of $103,909. At this time, the Session approved the withdrawal of Living Mission Funds for mission payments, including 53rd Sunday. The Department of Missions reported to the congregation that "our budget was in limbo for half the year because of the $55,574 general deficit from 1991. This was resolved when Session authorized use of the Living Mission Fund monies for the Mission Budget."

The Cash Management Council reported when the congregation adopted our 1992 budget of $690,000, the Session was well aware that our projected revenues would not enable us to cover these expenditures, therefore the Session made 3 very significant decisions:

> We would honor our 1992 Mission Commitments in the amount of $122,715.
>
> We would eliminate the entire 1991 deficit and cover all 1992 budgeted expenses.
>
> Funds would be drawn from the Living Mission Fund to cover the above two items. $79,500 was taken.

So far, none of this money has been returned to the Living Mission Fund, despite substantial surpluses in 1993 and 1994.

It is difficult to determine the budget for 1992. We find the following figures: $566,000, $717,249, $631,562.

Mary Clauss was Moderator of the Board of Deacons. Clif Snyder was President of the Corporation. Kathy Duncan was Moderator of the Presbyterian Women. Bob McWilliams resigned as Administrator and was succeeded by Jan Hodge. Staci Thomson was taken under care of Session as an inquirer into the ministry. Then in the middle of all this activity, we called Rev. Jerry Andrews as Senior Pastor.

For many years our Session had consisted of 10 standing committees, who seemed to effectively govern the church. This year, the Ses-

sion was restructured and now consists 10 Departments and 24 Councils. The new Parish Ministry is now under the Board of Deacons. Rev. Beth Appel proposed a Memorial Garden for the interment of members of the congregation. Ruth Morgenstern resigned from the Church Staff. She has served the church so well in so many capacities, on the Session as well as on the Staff, and her knowledge and experience will be greatly missed.

Our membership this year was 1,380.

The largest and most satisfying expenditure of the "Continue the Vision" Fund was the paying off of the mortgage in the amount of $244,209.67.

Two Deacon candidates were ordained and installed at a Session Meeting. Is that legal?

Jerry, we're glad you are here.

1993

This must be the year of the people, so many individuals appear in the records. To start with, membership was at 1,298, and our budget was $764,274.

Our first contemporary service was held on May 9 at 8:30 a.m. Presbytery held its June meeting in our sanctuary.

The Building Commission reports that the work on the Youth Lounge is nearing completion, including the installation of a new rear stairway. The electrical system and the fire alarm system have been updated. Doors and hardware have been repaired or replaced as needed, as well as tuckpointing and a new roof for the chapel. An improved sound system has been installed in the Sanctuary.

Little has been said about LOGOS, which is now in its 4th year. It has been exciting having the parents involved in this ministry to our young people. Attendance is holding up very well, with an average of 69 third to sixth graders present every week. During the summer the members enjoyed monthly adventures including canoeing and bike riding. In the fall, they made and decorated Christmas stockings, filled them with gifts, and gave them to the children at Family Center.

After lying dormant for the last few years, Men's Ministries reactivated itself once more, and enjoyed an attendance of 75 to 100 at its activities.

The Memorial Garden was established on the grounds, just north of the entrance to the Christian Education Building. A plaque and a marble bench were installed, and the Garden was consecrated as a resting place for those of our members whose cremated remains are interred there.

A visitors center has been established in the Narthex. It offers information, maps and brochures to visitors, and—a nice touch—each visitor is presented with a small loaf of home made bread.

New Hymnals have been installed in the sanctuary.

Our Associate Pastor, Malcolm Davis has asked the congregation to concur with him in his request to Presbytery that his relationship with this church be terminated, effective June 30. This was preceded by a reception for Malcolm and Laurie.

Rev. Dennis Okholm has been named Parish Associate.

Jack Webster is President of the Corporation

Rev. Beth Appel has been elected Commissioner to the General Assembly at Orlando, Fla.

Kathleen Weller has been taken under care of Presbytery.

Elaine Montgomery was appointed Clerk of Session.

Debbie Page was elected Moderator of Presbyterian Women.

John Albrecht was appointed Music Director.

Dr. William Phemister resigned as Church Organist.

David Kneupfer appointed Organizational Representative for the Boy Scouts.

Scott Bullock appointed Director of Youth Ministries.

With Malcolm Davis gone, we were seeking a new Associate Pastor.

For many years, we referred to new members as "new members". Now we refer to them as "inquirers".

For many years, our Book of Order referred to candidates for the ministry as "candidates". Now the Book of Order refers to them as "inquirers".

Isn't having two kinds of Inquirers going to be confusing?

1994

We are right in the middle of very recent history now. That doesn't seem to make it any easier to portray the activities of the church. We started the year with a membership of 1,151 and an annual budget of $730,000.

The Architectural firm of Ware Associates was engaged to see what could be done to enlarge the Narthex, provide Nursery rooms close to the Narthex, as well as additional classrooms, a connection between the Chapel and the Sanctuary, and new toilet facilities. The cost of these changes was placed at $1,500,000, which was to be raised by a three-year drive titled "build on the Vision". As only $318,000 was pledged, it was decided that we would hold to the plan, subject to changes, and would build only when we had sufficient funds to do it.

The original plan which was started in May, 1991, concluded in July 1994. The total receipts were $949,433.06 and the expenditures $768,996.22. The contribution to missions was $15,067. The balance on hand in the amount of $180,436.84 was turned over to the Administrator.

The most disturbing event to take place this year was the Re-Imagining Conference held in Minneapolis. Apparently the purpose of the

conference was good, but its operation got out of control. God was named "Sophia", a title which denotes only one attribute—wisdom, and so reduces God to that one attribute. The Trinity was ignored. The redemptive power of Christ on the cross was explicitly rejected. And it kept going on. That we must be open to new ideas is valid, but an open mind is not an empty mind; we have to remain within the boundaries of our confessional stance.

The comments above are from the response that our Session, and a great many others, expressed to the General Assembly, which seemed to respond weakly to the various complaints presented. The concerns have apparently died down now, but this emphasizes that the integrity of our faith calls for eternal vigilance.

In one of the earlier years, I commented on the Assimilation Council which seemed to have been organized with an undetermined purpose. A Network Program was mentioned but lacked details. Let's bring this up to date. "Network Program" has now been titled "Discovering Spiritual Gifts". The idea is based on the priesthood of all believers, and its purpose is to help members of the congregation to discover how each one individually may identify what they have to offer to the glory of God.

The Glen Ellyn Clergy Council Walk-In Ministry was founded in February. This organization, supported by ten local churches, provides a single location to attend to the needs of individuals and families. Elder Hank Stevens is a Director and our Administrator, Jan Hodge is an advisor.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the organization of Covenant Groups. The occasion was marked by a celebration dinner, attended by 140.

Our church hosted the Presbytery Childrens Education meeting with 125 in attendance.

New paraments for the pulpit and lectern, together with matching stoles, is received as a gift in memory of Oscar George Massant, the father of Arlene Grimm. We are told that the initials inscribed, "I H S" means "In This Sign".

Rev. James Berkley, our Parish Associate has been called as Pastor to the Bellevue, Wash. Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Nancy Calvert has been appointed Parish Associate.

Rev. John R. Curphey has been called as Associate Pastor, to start Feb. 1,1995.

Inquirer Donna Gray is now under care of Presbytery.

Inquirer Diane Ford was removed from care of Presbytery for reasons of health.

As is their custom, the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 46, has donated 10 Christmas wreaths to the church.

Presbyterian Women have donated $2,000 to the church for the purchase of tables for John Knox Hall. Donna Bogdanski is Moderator of the Presbyterian Women.

John Craddock and Ruth Morgenstern were names Historians for three years.

Russell Callender was called as Church Organist.

Trevecca Okholm was appointed to Presbytery's Volunteer Ministries Committee.

The Session endorsed the nomination of Alice Holmes for recognition by Presbytery for her outstanding volunteer contribution to educational ministry.

We close the record of this year with a quote from our Pastor: "The more the congregation demands that the church address the needs and pain of others, the more likely it is that the congregation is undergoing a serious heart transformation."

1995

We have now reached the point where "history" runs into "future". So we will stay with the history part as long as we can.

Our membership is 1,163 and our budget is $756,150.

On Feb. 26, Rev. John Curphey was installed as Associate Pastor. On April 9, Rev. Beth Appel asked for dissolution of the pastoral relations existing with our church be dissolved.

Concern was expressed for the lack of adequate space in the Church Library. They need more room.

The PADS program was granted the use of John Knox Hall for one night each week from mid-June to mid-August.

A "Men's Ministries" was organized and its first meeting was held on Jan. 22. The purpose is to provide programs and activities that challenge the spiritual growth of our men, and encourage a strong sense of community and accountability.

A special reception was held to mark the retirement from teaching of Rev. Fred Tyrrell, whose services in this area cover many years. Fred still continues as Parish Associate.

Rev. Dennis Okholm was granted $500 for the purchase of books for the Nile Theological College in the Sudan. Dennis will be spending the summer working at that college.

The Session has endorsed the application of Donna Gray to Presbytery as a candidate for Christian Ministry. The Session also received an historic report of the Living Mission Fund.

Our Fine Arts Committee received a Special Award from Chicago Presbytery in recognition of the quality and diversity of its presentations. The award will be displayed in the Hall of the Pastors.

Jack Webster is President of the Corporation.

Rob Meyer is Moderator of the Board of Deacons.

Julie Barr is appointed Nursery Coordinator

Janis Wright resigned as Director of Westminster Preschool, and was succeeded by Donna Jennings.

Mary Clauss is Moderator of Presbyterian Women.

Air Conditioning has now been installed in the Sanctuary and in John Knox Hall. Didn't you notice? And now "history" has caught up with "now". It is our hope that this record has provided the reader with a degree of familiarity with the church of which you are a part.

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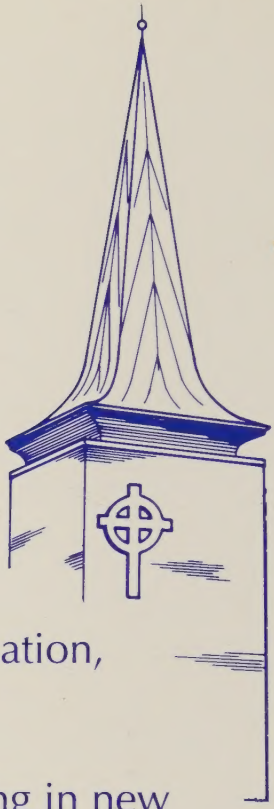

I feel very strongly that tradition can be valuable in cementing the stability of any organization, but most especially the Church.

Over our 70 years we have been taking in new members armed with a history that starts with the day that they are received into membership. The fact that we have been around for 70 years makes this become particularly significant.

It is my hope that this history will enable our members and those who join our congregation in the years to come to claim the story of our early years as part of their own church history.